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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 14, 15, 17, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 35, 36, 51, 52, 61, 62, 65, 68, 69, 70(b), 95, 102 and 110

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Question of Palestine

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

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The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 23 May 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group in New York for the month of May 2014, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 14 May 2014 from H.E. Dr. Nabil Al-Arabi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, along with its enclosure, the resolutions and the Declarations adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States at the summit level, held on 25 and 26 March 2014 in the State of Kuwait.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter, along with its annex and enclosures circulated as an official document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 14, 15, 17, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 35, 36, 51, 52, 61, 62, 65, 68, 69, 70(b), 95, 102 and 110, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations
Chair of the Arab Group

[Original: Arabic]

League of Arab States
Secretary-General

14 May 2014

To: His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Salutations,

It is my pleasure to transmit herewith paper and electronic copies from the volume of resolutions and the declaration that were adopted at the ordinary session of the League of Arab States at summit level, held in Kuwait on 25 and 26 March 2014.

Your Excellency is aware that this summit was held against the backdrop of successive regional and international developments. At the summit, the Arab leaders discussed several issues of concern to the Arab world, the most salient being developments relating to the Palestinian issue and the grave and deteriorating situation in Syria. The leaders also discussed the development and reform of the League of Arab States, including the creation of an Arab human rights court.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my desire to continue consulting and coordinating with you in respect of various issues that are of mutual concern.

Accept the assurances of my highest consideration and warmest regards,

(*Signed*) Nabil **al-Arabi**
Secretariat-General

Summit 25/(03/14)/41-W(0171)

League of Arab States
Secretariat-General
Secretariat for the Affairs of
the Council of the League

Council of the League of Arab States
At Summit Level
Twenty-fifth Ordinary Session
Kuwait, State of Kuwait
25-26 March 2014

- Resolutions
- Declaration of Kuwait
- Speech of His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, to the Opening Session
- Speech of His Excellency Dr. Nabil al-Arabi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, to the Opening Session.
- List the names of Arab leaders and heads of delegations of the Arab states participating in the summit (25th ordinary session)

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Resolutions

Resolutions on joint Arab action and the development of the joint Arab action system

1. Report of the Presidency of the Summit on the activity of the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments (resolution 590)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the final report of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments,

Pursuant to the charter of the committee,

Resolves

1. To express gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and the Chairman of the 24th Ordinary Session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level for sponsoring efforts to follow up on the implementation of resolutions of the Doha Summit (2013).

2. To thank the Member States of the Follow-Up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments and the Secretary-General for their valuable efforts in following up on the implementation of the resolutions of this summit.

(Summit resolution 590, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

2. Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and its annexes (resolution 591)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and its annexes treating various areas, the annex to the Report of the Secretary-General on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction from the Middle East: 40 Years of Arab Efforts, and the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the "Initiative of the Secretary-General concerning Renewable Energy,"

After hearing the speech delivered by the Secretary-General to the opening session,

Resolves

To commend the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and its annexes treating various areas.

(Summit resolution 591, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

3. Development of the League of Arab States (resolution 592)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied: the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action; the report of the Secretariat-General on the Development of the League of Arab States, which includes the reports and recommendations of the Open-Membership Committee to reform and develop the League of Arab States and the four task teams formed in the framework thereof; League of Arab State resolutions at summit level, including resolution 567 adopted at the 23rd ordinary session on 29 March 2012 in Baghdad, resolution 572 adopted at the 24th ordinary session on 26 March 2013 in Doha; resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level, including resolution 7372 adopted at the 136th ordinary session on 13 September 2011, resolution 7582 adopted at the 139th ordinary session on 6 March 2013, resolution 7652 adopted at the 140th ordinary session on 1 September 2013, and resolution 7723 adopted at the 141st ordinary session on 3 September 2014; and the report of the Independent High-Level Committee for the Reform and Development of the League of Arab States,

Taking note of the outcomes of the proceedings of the Economic and Social Committee in its 92nd and 93rd sessions,

Based on the Charter and Bylaws of the League of Arab States,

Desiring to develop and achieve the objectives of joint Arab action, fulfil the vital interests of the Member States and maintain Arab security and peace,

Responding to current Arab needs and keeping pace with regional and international developments,

Commending the efforts made by the Open Membership Committee to reform and develop the League of Arab States under the chair of the State of Qatar and the four task teams – including the team tasked with reviewing the charter and developing the conceptual framework for the joint Arab action system under the chairmanship of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the team tasked with the reform and development of the agencies of the League of Arab States under the chairmanship of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the team tasked with development of joint Arab economic and social action under the chairmanship of the Republic of Iraq, and the team tasked with the development of the popular dimension of joint Arab action under the chairmanship of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria – and the efforts made by the Secretariat-General in this regard,

Resolves

I. In respect of amending the charter:

1. To complete the examination of proposed amendments to the Charter of the League of Arab States, request the Member States to provide the Secretariat-General with their remarks and proposals by no later than mid-May 2014, submit the amendments to the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level in an extraordinary session according to the procedures followed in this regard in preparation for submission of the amendments to the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level in its 142nd ordinary session in September 2014 for the adoption of the necessary measures to approve the amendments in their final form.

II. In respect of Arab League apparatuses and mechanisms:

1. To rationalize the summit agenda, reduce ceremonial aspects of the agenda and use the consultative summits mechanism when necessary under resolution 364 adopted in this regard at the Riyadh summit on 29 March 2007.

2. To temporarily suspend work on the current charter and bylaws of the Arab Peace and Security Council; to direct the Arab League Council at ministerial level to temporarily assume the functions of the Arab Peace and Security Council until the charter and bylaws of the Council are amended to enable all Member States to become members of the council; to introduce the necessary amendments to the Peace and Security Council's functions, authorities and mechanisms to enable it to discharge its function in effectively maintaining Arab peace and security; and to implement the aforesaid amendments.

3. To resubmit the draft charter of the Arab Court of Justice[1] to the League Council in September 2014, and assign the Secretariat-General to prepare a report on the possibility of basing the court on an optional mandate after Member States' views in this regard are surveyed.

4. To assign the League Council to amend the charter's mechanism for following up on the implementation of resolutions in order to develop and increase the effectiveness of the mechanism for following up on the implementation of resolutions issued by the League Council based on recommendations submitted by the Member States and the Secretariat-General in this regard; and submit what is achieved in this regard to the League Council session in September 2014.

5. To add an item to the agenda of the 27th session of the summit in 2016 concerning the evaluation of the progress of joint Arab action and the Secretariat-General's efforts during the five-year period of 2011-2016; and request the League Council and Secretary-General to adopt the necessary measures in this regard.

6. To assign the Secretariat-General to prepare a comprehensive study on the development of a mechanism for monitoring and regulating elections in the Arab countries and other countries wishing to monitor their elections; and submit the study to the League Council for its adoption of the measures it deems necessary.

7. To assign the Secretariat-General to prepare a study on the utility and conditions of League missions, centres and offices abroad with a view toward rationalizing their operation and promoting their role in developing their performance; and present the study to the League Council for its adoption of the measures it deems necessary in this regard.

III. In respect of the development of joint Arab economic and social action:

1. To request that the third task team concerned with the development of joint Arab economic and social action continue its efforts to develop joint economic and social action and submit its recommendations taking into account the results which the team achieved in previous meetings.

[1] Draft Charter of the Arab Court of Justice, document number Summit-025/(11/05)/02-N amended (0436), which was submitted to the Arab summit in its 18th ordinary session in Khartoum in 2006.

2. To affirm the participation of senior officials of the Economic and Social Council in the proceedings of the third task team concerned with the development of joint Arab economic and social action.

3. To submit the results achieved by the third task team concerned with the development of joint Arab economic and social action to the Economic and Social Council in its coming session.

IV. In respect of the popular dimension of joint Arab action:

1. To affirm the advisory nature of the Arab Parliament at present.

2. To request that the Arab Parliament and the Secretariat-General define the cooperative relationship between them and to adopt the necessary measures to evaluate the efforts of the Arab Parliament five years after its entry into force.

3. To urge the Member States and Arab parliaments to undertake activities in various fields to familiarize Arab public opinion with the efforts of the Arab Parliament.

4. To ascribe importance to ensuring the effective representation of women in the Arab Parliament.

5. To adopt standards which civil society organizations must meet, define cooperative relations between such organizations and Arab League agencies, and request the Economic and Social Council to expedite adoption of these new standards to facilitate the granting Arab civil society organizations observer status in Arab League agencies and machineries.

6. To request the Arab League's Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization to prepare a report on cooperation with the Secretariat-General on the development of Arab cultural action and its mechanisms based on the recommendations concerning culture in the report of the Independent High-Level Committee for the Reform and Development of the Arab League.

V. To assign the Open-Membership Committee to complete the tasks assigned to it and to submit the outcomes of its remaining activities to the 142nd ordinary session of the Arab League in September 2014.

(Summit resolution 592, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

4. Draft charter of the Arab Human Rights Court (resolution 593)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, resolution 573 of the League Council at summit level in its 24th ordinary session of March 26, 2013 to establish an Arab Human Rights Court; resolution 7726 of the League Council at ministerial level it its 141st ordinary session of March 9, 2014; the report and recommendations of the High-Level Committee of Legal Experts of the Member States Concerned with the Preparation of the Draft Charter of the Arab Human Rights Court in its fifth meeting (Cairo, 17-18 March 2014); and the draft charter of the Arab Human Rights Court,

Resolves

1. To approve, in principle, the draft charter of the Arab Human Rights Court, provided the high-level committee is assigned to continue its efforts and work to formulate the final formulation of the draft and present it to the next meeting of the Ministerial Council.

2. To request that the Secretary-General follow-up on the subject.

(Summit resolution 593, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

Political resolutions

5. The Palestinian issue, Arab-Israeli conflict and new developments therein: the Arab Peace Initiative and the mission of the Arab ministerial delegation emanating from the Arab Peace Initiative Committee (resolution 594)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied: the memorandum of the Secretariat-General; report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action; the resolutions of the Council at ministerial level in this regard, the most recent being resolution 7728 adopted in the 141st ordinary session of March 9, 2014, the statement issued by the Arab Peace Initiative Committee during its convocation in Kuwait on November 19, 2013, and resolution 7719 adopted in the extraordinary session of December 21, 2013,

Based on all resolutions of the League Council at summit level, the most recent being resolutions 574 and 575 adopted in the 24th ordinary session held in Doha on March 26, 2013,

Resolves

1. To reaffirm that a just, comprehensive peace is the strategic choice and that the peace process is a comprehensive, indivisible process; affirm that a just, comprehensive peace in the region can be achieved only through a complete Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian and Arab territories occupied in the Arab, Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 border and from the territories in south Lebanon that continue to be occupied; achieve a just solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees based on the Arab Peace Initiative and United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 of 1948; reject all forms of resettlement; and establish an independent, sovereign Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem based on the Arab Peace Initiative approved by the Beirut summit in 2002 and reaffirmed by successive Arab summits and in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the relevant terms of reference thereof.

2. To refuse absolutely and categorically to recognize Israel as a Jewish state, and to reject all pressure exercised on the Palestinian leadership in respect thereof.

3. To affirm that peace will not be achieved without occupied East Jerusalem becoming the capital of the Palestinian state; affirm that Jerusalem is an inseparable part of the Palestinian territories that were occupied in 1967; regard as null and void – under international law, United Nations resolutions, the Geneva Convention, and Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property – the continued settlement and Judaization of the holy city, encroachment on its Islamic and Christian holy places, the falsification of the history of Jerusalem to obliterate its

civilizational, human, historical, and cultural heritage and the alteration of its demography and geography.

4. To condemn the ongoing incursions and attacks by Israel, the occupying authority, against the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, which are carried out by extremist Jewish organizations and rightwing racist groups with the protection of the police and Israeli occupation army in an attempt to share al-Aqsa Mosque in time and space, extend full Israeli authority over it and wrest away jurisdiction over it from Jordan to implement a plan to raze the mosque and establish their alleged temple, which will destabilize the region, lead to violence and hatred, and presage the start of a religious war, for which Israel will bear full responsibility; and to demand that the international community, Security Council, European Union and UNESCO bear responsibility for protecting the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque as a prominent Islamic site in occupied Palestine.

5. To follow up on the assignment of the Arab Group in New York to act quickly to clarify the danger to which the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque is subject.

6. Affirm that peace negotiations must be based on the terms of reference for the peace process, which consist of the relevant United Nations resolutions, the Arab Peace Initiative and the principle of land in exchange for peace in the timeframe agreed for ending the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967; and affirm that the final settlement issues for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict are settlements, Jerusalem, refugees, borders, water, prisoners, and rejection of all Israeli unilateral measures and attempts to fracture the unity of the Palestinian territories.

7. To assign to Israel full responsibility for the obstruction of the peace process; confirm that the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations stemmed from the positive response of the permanent members of the Security Council to Arab action demanding the end of the Israeli occupation and from the modification of the international approach for addressing the Palestinian issue and conducting the peace process, to which the American administration responded favourably and provided sponsorship and the necessary guarantees for the resumption of negotiations, including Israel's commitment not to undertake any actions that would prejudice or pre-empt the outcomes of final status negotiations; affirm that the international community must pressure Israel to stop all settlement activities and to provide US-sponsored negotiations the opportunity they deserve to bring about a final settlement of all permanent status issues on the Palestinian track; and affirm that security can be provided only through a just, comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, a full, comprehensive withdrawal from occupied territories, and the end of all forms of Israeli military presence in the Palestinian territories.

8. To call on the Security Council to bear its responsibilities and act to adopt the measures and mechanisms needed to resolve all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict and achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region based on a two-state solution according to the 1967 borders, to implement Security Council resolutions and to be responsible to the occupied State of Palestine for ending the Israeli occupation of occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, a withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border and the enforcement of international law and relevant Security Council resolutions.

9. To call on the United States and all countries of the European Union to recognize the State of Palestine according to the borders of 4 June 1967 and its capital, East Jerusalem.

10. To continue to assign the Arab ministerial delegation to consult with the Security Council, the American administration, Russia, China and the European Union; and to reaffirm the Arab commitment to the fundamentals, principles and terms of reference of the Arab Peace Initiative to achieve a permanent, just peace in the region, all of which are based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, to thereby end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and establish the independent State of Palestine with its capital in East Jerusalem according to the 4 June 1967 borders.

11. To support the efforts of the occupied State of Palestine to obtain membership in specialized international agencies and to join international conventions and protocols.

12. To affirm the importance of convening an international conference to present all aspects of the Palestinian issue with a view toward ending the occupation of occupied Palestinian territories based on the resolution of the final settlement issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict – foremost of which are borders, security, settlements, Jerusalem, refugees and water – in accordance with United Nations resolutions, the agreed terms of reference for the peace process, and United Nations General Assembly resolution 194 of 1948 in respect of the refugee issue.

13. To welcome the State of Kuwait's assumption of the chairmanship of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee; to express gratitude to the State of Qatar, the previous chair of the committee; to assign the committee to continue evaluating the Arab position in respect of various aspects and dimensions of events relating to the peace process, including the feasibility of maintaining the Arab commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative as a strategic option; to evaluate the international methodology and mechanisms used to address the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the role of the Quartet on the Middle East; to advance the implementation of this methodology and the formation of new mechanisms of action based on United Nations terms of reference to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories; and to direct the committee to submit its report and recommendations to the next meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level for examination thereof.

14. To affirm the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/68//12 proclaiming 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People; note the joint meeting of the League of Arab States and the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which convened at the headquarters of the Secretariat-General in Cairo on March 10, 2014 to launch activities promoting international solidarity with the Palestinian people; affirm the declaration issued by this meeting, "the Cairo Declaration in Solidarity with the Palestinian People"; and affirm the Palestinian people's permanent, inalienable rights, the foremost being the right of return and self-determination.

15. To call upon the international community to pressure Israel to lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip, open the crossings from and to the Gaza Strip, and implement the de facto crossings agreement reached on November 15, 2005, particularly following the transformation of the Gaza Strip into a large prison, Israel's refusal to open the crossings, Israel's refusal to permit the construction of a port, reconstruction of the airport and establishment of a safe corridor between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and Israel's refusal to allow the entry of construction materials to rebuild what

was destroyed by the recent Israeli war against the Gaza Strip; and to express gratitude and appreciation for the measures adopted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in respect of the Rafah crossing to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

16. To pursue efforts with the international community and the United Nations to pressure Israel to release all Palestinian prisoners and detainees languishing in occupation prisons, including political and parliamentary leaders, and to request that they attend to this issue pursuant to United Nations rules and laws, the foremost being international law, international humanitarian law, the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949; request that the United Nations Secretary-General undertake urgent efforts and adopt all measures needed to pursue the speedy release of prisoners and children in Israeli prisons and provide international protection for them pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 of 1 October 2000 and relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly resolution 48/3 issued by the Commission on the Status of Women in its 48th, session of March 2004.

17. To welcome the signing on 5 April 2011 of the Palestinian National Reconciliation Agreement (Cairo agreement), which achieves the supreme interests of the Palestinian people; express gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for its ongoing auspices and continued assiduous efforts to implement the Palestinian National Reconciliation Agreement; and call on Palestinian forces to speedily implement the provisions of this agreement to meet the challenges facing the Palestinian cause.

18. To welcome the Doha Declaration and what was agreed regarding the formation, under the Cairo agreement, of an independent national technocratic transitional government that prepares the environment for presidential and parliamentary elections.

19. To condemn and censure the party responsible for the assassination of the late Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat; and to continue efforts to form an independent, impartial commission at the United Nations level to investigate the assassination.

20. To regard as a permanent agenda item the monitoring of political developments in respect of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict and promotion of the Arab Peace Initiative.

21. To request that the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States undertake the necessary contacts and consultations to follow up on the implementation of this resolution.

(Summit resolution 594, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

6. Developments in respect of the Palestinian issue (resolution 595)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action, and the resolutions of the League Council at ministerial level in respect thereof, the most recent being resolution 7729 of the 141st ordinary session on March 9, 2014,

Based on all resolutions of the League Council at summit level, the most recent being resolutions 574 and 575 of the 24th ordinary session on 26 March 2014,

Resolves

1. To affirm adherence to the establishment of the independent State of Palestine on all Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, with its capital in Jerusalem; to reject all illegal Israeli measures intended to annex and Judaize the city; to condemn all official and unofficial Israeli programs, plans and policies intended to declare Jerusalem the capital of the State of Israel; and to call on the international community to enforce United Nations resolutions in respect thereof.

2. To demand that the United States, European Union and United Nations act immediately to bear their responsibilities, pressure Israel to immediately halt settlement activity in the city of Jerusalem and dedicate itself to a serious negotiating process that restores rights and preserves security, peace and stability rather than undermining the peace process.

3. To affirm the Arab character of Jerusalem; to condemn the serious, illegal, illegitimate encroachments practiced by Israel in the city of Jerusalem; to condemn the excavations in the area of the Mughrabi Gate and beneath and surrounding al-Aqsa Mosque, which threaten the collapse of the mosque; to demand that Israel immediately halt all of these measures and fulfil its obligations under international law and the Geneva Conventions to protect the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem; request that UNESCO bear its responsibilities in this regard, particularly as Israel has resumed demolition and excavation operations for the road leading to Mughrabi Gate and has approved a new plan to build a bridge on the Mughrabi Gate Road and to deepen excavations and direct them toward the Chain Gate (one of the gates of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque).

4. To strongly condemn Israeli statements that the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque is an inseparable part of the territory of Israel to which Israeli law applies; and to warn that Israel's plans for Muslims and Jews to share the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque are a dangerous escalation against the inviolability of the mosque, Islamic holy places and Muslims.

5. To condemn Israel's continued gross violations, racist practices, expropriation and demolition of houses in Jerusalem to serve its settlement projects in the holy city, continued clearing of thousands of dunams for the construction of the greater Jerusalem project, construction of a belt of settlements to ensure geographical discontiguity between the northern West Bank and southern West Bank and complete the isolation of the city of Jerusalem from its environs, tightening of its control over Jerusalem, and Judaization of Jerusalem.

6. To request that the Vatican not sign any agreement with the Israeli government on ownership, economic, financial and real estate matters of the Catholic Church or Catholic institutions and associations located in east Jerusalem, and that the Vatican permit the conclusion of such agreements solely with the State of Palestine, because Jerusalem is occupied land that was occupied in 1967, and any agreement with Israel (the occupying force) is a clear violation of international law and United Nations resolutions; and to call upon the Vatican comply with the agreement that it signed with the State of Palestine in 2000.

7. To condemn Israel for its construction of the light rail project, which is intended to connect southeast Jerusalem with west Jerusalem and Israeli settlements established on the territories of the State of Palestine that were occupied in 1967, and to separate them from the West Bank as another step in Israel's systematic

strategy to Judaize Jerusalem, which is the capital of the State of Palestine, and to expropriate and annex large areas of land of the State of Palestine to complete the project, thereby violating international law, the Geneva Convention and other international legal terms of reference; and to call upon the French Government to adopt the necessary position in this regard consistent with its responsibilities under international law.

8. To call upon the Arab countries to pressure foreign companies working on Israeli projects in the occupied territory of the State of Palestine, including Jerusalem; and to demand that these companies withdraw immediately from projects in which they are involved in the occupied Palestinian territories in flagrant violation of international law, the Geneva Convention and relevant international terms of reference.

9. To call upon Arab and Islamic countries and organizations to continue to provide material and moral support to the population of Jerusalem and to Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem to help them continue to remain steadfast and to preserve their property; and to call upon the Jerusalem Committee to continue performing an active role in this regard.

10. To affirm the importance of the continued compliance of UNRWA and other international organizations with United Nations resolutions on Jerusalem, including keeping their main offices, departments and official offices in occupied Jerusalem and not relocating them abroad.

11. To welcome the important agreement signed between the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Highness King Abdullah II, and the President of the State of Palestine, his Excellency Mahmud Abbas, on 31 March 2013 to defend and use all legal channels to protect the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and Islamic holy places; and to express appreciation for the Jordanian role in caring for, protecting, and maintaining the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem under the historical auspices of the Hashemite Kingdom, which the aforesaid agreement reaffirms.

12. To affirm the recent resolutions adopted by the Jerusalem Committee emanating from the Organization of Islamic Corporation in its 20th session held in the city of Marrakesh on 17-18 January 2014 under the chairmanship of the King of Morocco, His Highness King Mohammed VI, on the protection of Jerusalem and support of the steadfastness of Jerusalemites; to commend the efforts made by the Bayt Mal al-Quds Agency, an affiliate of the Jerusalem Committee, to finance the reconstruction of the al-Aqsa Mosque wall, projects in the areas of housing, health, culture, social affairs and youth and sport and the renovation of mosques and historic buildings in the city.

13. To call upon Arab and Islamic organizations, Arab funds and civil society organizations to finance and implement development projects in the education, health, youth, social welfare, economic and housing sectors in Jerusalem to support the Arab presence there.

14. To call for the implementation of the resolution 503 concerning Jerusalem, which was adopted at the summit held in Siirt in 2010, which resolution increases the additional support decided at the Beirut summit in 2002 for the al-Aqsa Fund and Jerusalem Fund to 500 million United States dollars; and to request that the

Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States establish mechanisms for activating the Arab Action Plan to Save Jerusalem.

15. To condemn the ethnic cleansing policy pursued by Israel in Jerusalem, which involves the revocation of residency and expulsion of the population in order to change the demographic and geographical features of the city; to assign responsibility to the Israeli Government for all repercussions of its policies and practices; and to call on the Swiss Government to reconvene the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention of 1949 in order to convene a conference to discuss ways of applying the Convention to the occupied Palestinian territories and to protect the Palestinian people under occupation.

16. To condemn Israel for the resumption of its enforcement of the Absentee Property Law, which targets the expropriation of the property of Jerusalemites whose identity cards have been revoked; and to assign the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States to discuss an appropriate mechanism for preventing Israel from disposing of the property of Jerusalemites.

17. To call upon the Organization of Islamic Corporation and the religious and cultural authorities in the world to mobilize world public opinion to protect and halt the destruction of Islamic and Christian holy places and to halt the hostile actions to which Christian and Muslim clergy in Jerusalem and the other Palestinian territories are subjected.

18. To form a legal committee in the framework of the League of Arab States to pursue the documentation of Judaization and the seizure, confiscation, removal or demolition of the property and houses of Palestinian citizens in occupied Jerusalem, and to submit practical recommendations for following up on this subject, including the filing of cases with the International Court of Justice or International Criminal Court.

19. To affirm the illegitimacy and illegality of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, which violate international law, United Nations resolutions and the Fourth Geneva Convention; to affirm the need to counteract the attempts by Israel, the occupying authority, to implement unilateral measures and create new facts on the ground; and to reject any attempt to regard as a fait accompli the Israeli settlements established in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories in serious violation of international law, international legitimacy and relevant United Nations resolutions.

20. To demand that the international community make efforts to halt Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories and to implement relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 465 (1980) and 497 (1981), which affirm the illegality of settlement activity and the need to dismantle existing settlements, which violate international law, international legality and relevant United Nations resolutions; and to adopt practical measures to not conduct trade involving the products of Israeli settlements, which is a violation of international law.

21. To commend the European Union's decision of 16 July 2013, which prohibits EU members from financing enterprises in the Israeli settlements; and to call on EU members to clearly and explicitly state that any agreement signed between Israel and the European Union must state explicitly that the agreement does not apply to the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967.

22. To reiterate its call to assign the Arab Group in New York to follow up on the issuance of a binding resolution by the Security Council condemning Israel's expansionist plans and stipulating the halt of all forms of settlement activity and the recent plans of the Israeli occupation authorities to build thousands of settlement units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem; to affirm that settlement is illegitimate and illegal; to call on the international community to adopt the necessary measures to compel Israel to halt settlement activity in the State of Palestine, halt the destruction of the geographical, natural and demographic environment of the Palestinian territories, which are war crimes, implement relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions and 465 (1980) and 497 (1981), and dismantle all settlements established on the territory of the State of Palestine.

23 To call upon states and institutions that provide support to settlement activity to halt the financing of such activity because it violates international law and relevant United Nations resolutions and undermines the peace process; to call for divestment by states with investments in companies that contribute to the financing and support of settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories; and demand that states in which there are registered companies that participate in or have investment contracts and projects relating to such settlement activity halt all such investments or projects.

24. To condemn the encroachments and violations of the occupying authority Israel in the Jordan Valley involving the expulsion of the population from its land and seizure of that land, which underscores the danger of the plan which the Israeli Government is implementing to undermine the two-state solution, prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state according to the 1967 borders with its capital in East Jerusalem and fully encircle Jerusalem and isolate it from the other Palestinian territories.

25. To condemn Israeli measures in Area C to expropriate the majority of that area, link it to the economic cycle of the settlements and prohibit the establishment of Palestinian economic enterprises or enterprises financed by several donor states.

26. To affirm the assignment of the Secretariat-General and the Arab states to formulate an action plan to induce the international community to implement the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion of 9 July 2004, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the illegitimacy of the racist separation wall issued on 20 July 2004 and the preparation by the United Nations Secretary-General of a record of damages incurred as a result of the wall as provided in the aforesaid General Assembly resolution.

27. To affirm adherence to the right of Palestinian refugees to return; to reject resettlement attempts of all types; to reject any actions by international parties that would forfeit the right of return; to call on the Secretariat-General and Member States to continue and to intensify their efforts in the international arena and United Nations to affirm this right according to United Nations resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 194 (1948), in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative; and to affirm Israel's legal, political and moral responsibility for the evolution and persistence of the Palestinian refugee problem.

28. To affirm that the Palestinian refugee problem is the essence of the Palestinian cause and an inseparable part of a just, comprehensive peace process; and to reject

the separate treatment of this problem by any entity in violation of resolution 194 (1948).

29. To demand that all parties to the conflict in Syria halt acts of aggression against the Palestinian refugee camps and avoid involving them in battles, as these camps have remained neutral since the start of the conflict and have served as a safe haven for Syrians fleeing areas near the camps, and that Palestinian refugees be treated on a par with displaced Syrians.

30. To call on UNRWA to bear its responsibilities to the Palestinian refugees in Syria and to provide all forms of essential support to them; and to call on the international community to support UNRWA in this regard and provide it with the necessary support.

31. To affirm the importance of the continued provision of the necessary financial support for UNRWA's ordinary and emergency programs and activities; to call on the Secretariat-General, its missions abroad and the councils of Arab ambassadors to continue to use various channels of communication with all donor states to urge them to fulfil their financial obligations to UNRWA, enable it to perform its functions fully, and support the emergency program, all of which continues to be urgently needed due to Israeli acts of aggression and the effects thereof, to thereby avoid encumbering the host Arab states with additional burdens, which are primarily the responsibility of UNRWA.

32. To request that the Secretary-General follow up on the implementation of this resolution and submit a report on the measures adopted in respect thereof to the next session of the Council.

(Summit resolution 595, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

7. Developments in respect of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict: support for the budget of the State of Palestine and steadfastness of the Palestinian people (resolution 596)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action, and the recommendation issued in this regard by the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of Resolutions and Commitments at ministerial level in its meeting on 9 March 2014,

Affirming the importance of the obligation of the Member States to pay their contributions in support the budget of the State of Palestine under resolutions adopted at the Arab summits in Beirut (2002), Sharm al-Shaykh (2003), Tunis (2004), Algiers (2005), Khartoum (2006), Riyadh (2007), Damascus (2008), Doha (2009), Siirt (2010), Baghdad (2012) and Doha (2013),

Affirming resolution 7224 adopted at the 134th ordinary session on 16 September 2010, resolution 7301 adopted at the 135th ordinary session of 2 March 2011, resolution 7366 adopted at the emergency meeting of the extraordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at the Permanent Representative level on 31 May 2011, resolution 7368 issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at Permanent Representative level in the extraordinary session on 26 July 2011, resolution 7376 adopted at the 136th ordinary session of 13 September 2011, resolution 7453 adopted at the 137th ordinary session on 10 March 2012, resolution

7516 adopted at the 138th ordinary session on 5 September 2012, the statement issued by the meeting of the Arab Peace Initiative Committee held in Doha on 9 December 2012, resolution 7579 issued by the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level in its extraordinary session on 13 in January 2013, resolution 7588 adopted at the 139th ordinary session on 6 March 2013, resolution 7660 adopted at the 140th ordinary session on 1 September 2013, and resolution 7730 adopted by the 141st ordinary session on 9 September 2014,

Resolves

1. To affirm the call upon the Arab states to promptly provide a financial safety net in the amount of 1 million dollars monthly to the State of Palestine; to support the Palestinian leadership in the light of the financial pressures to which it is subject and Israel's continued refusal to transfer funds owed to the State of Palestine; and to express gratitude to the Arab states that have fulfilled their financial safety net obligations.

2. To express gratitude to the Arab states that have fully or partially paid their obligations and contributions to support of the resources of the al-Aqsa Fund and Jerusalem Uprising Fund pursuant to the resolutions of the extraordinary Cairo summit of 2000 and to provide additional support to the two funds according to the decisions of the Beirut summit in its ordinary session in 2002; to implement the resolution of the Siirt summit in its ordinary session of 2010 in support of Jerusalem; and to call upon the Arab states that have not fulfilled their obligations in respect of additional support to do so quickly.

3. To express gratitude to the Arab states that have fulfilled their obligations to support the budget of the State of Palestine; to call upon the other Arab states to pay the arrears which they owe as quickly as possible; and to affirm the importance of continuing to support the budget of the State of Palestine.

4. To regard support for the budget of the State of Palestine and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people as a permanent agenda item.

5. To call upon the Arab states to support of the budget of the State of Palestine for a period of one year starting on one April 2014 according to the mechanisms approved by the Beirut summit in 2002.

(Summit resolution 596, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

8. Developments in respect of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict: the occupied Arab Syrian Golan (resolution 597)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and the resolutions of the League Council at ministerial level, the most recent being resolution 7735 of the 141st ordinary session of 9 March 2014,

Affirming the resolutions of the Arab Summit conferences, the most recent being resolution 578 of the 24th ordinary session on 26 March 2013 in Doha,

Resolves

1. To affirm the resolute support of the Arab states for Syria's just demand and right to regain all the occupied Arab Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 border line based on the principles of the peace process, United Nations resolutions and the outcomes of the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference.

2. To reaffirm all its resolutions, the latest being resolution 578 of the 24th ordinary session of 26 March 2013 in Doha, and all League Council resolutions at ministerial level, particularly resolution 4126 of 13 February 1982 and subsequent resolutions, the latest being resolution 7735 of the 141st ordinary session of 9 March 2014, which rejects all measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities to alter the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, the latest such measure being the law passed by the Israeli Knesset requiring a referendum before withdrawing from the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and East Jerusalem; to regard Israeli measures to entrench Israeli control as illegal, null and void and a violation of international conventions, the United Nations Charter and resolutions, particularly Security Council resolution 497 (1981), General Assembly resolution 63/99 of 5 December 2008, which affirms that Israel's decision on 14 December 1981 to annex the occupied Arab Syrian Golan is illegal, null and void and devoid of legal effect and a serious violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and General The resolutions 64/21 of December 2, 2009, 65/18 of 25 November 2010, 65/106 of 10 December 2010 and A/66/19 of 1 December 2011, Human Rights Council resolution 5/13 of 24 March 2010, and report no. A/66/400 submitted in this regard by the United Nations Secretary-General to the General assembly on 19 October 2011.

3. To reaffirm that the continued occupation of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan since 1967 poses an ongoing threat to peace and security in the region and world.

4. To condemn Israel for its practices in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, which consist of the seizure of land and water resources, the construction of a rockfill dam near the city of Qunaytirah to steal water, the diversion of water from Lake Mas‹dah – whose capacity totals 7,000,000 m^3 – to settlers' farms, the draining of the Sea of Galilee and Hula Lake and the denial of Syrian farmers key water sources for the irrigation of their farms and watering of their livestock; to condemn the construction and expansion of settlements, the relocation of settlers to such settlements and exploitation of natural resources and construction of projects thereon, the last being the establishment of the so-called Settlers' Council in the Golan in December 2010, which involved a propaganda campaign to build new settlement units in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan under the heading of "Come to the Golan," the attraction of 3000 new Israeli families to settle in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan in the framework of this project, the announcement of a tender for the offering and sale of 10 areas in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan for the planting of vineyards, the construction of wineries thereon, and the imposition of an economic boycott on, and a prohibition on the export of, the agricultural products of the Arab population.

5. To affirm the Arab position of full solidarity with Syria and Lebanon, to stand with them in confronting ongoing Israeli attacks and threats against them and to consider any attack against them an attack against the Arab nation.

6. To support to the steadfastness of Arab citizens in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and to stand beside them in their opposition to the Israeli occupation and its

oppressive practices; to support their determination to cling to their land and Arab Syrian identity; to affirm the need to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to citizens of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan; to condemn the Israeli occupation authorities and their flagrant violations of all rights of Syrian citizens, young and old, under occupation in the Golan pursuant to the principles of international law and international legitimacy; to condemn the occupation's expatriation and displacement of thousands of residents, theft of their land, breakup of families and the impact of that situation on the lives and upbringing of children, in addition to other numerous violations of children's rights (which are inconsistent with international obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

7. To demand that the United Nations, Security Council and Human Rights Council ensure that Israel honours the fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil Political Rights and facilitates visits by residents of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan of their families and relatives in the mother country Syria through the Qunaytirah crossing under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

8. To condemn the Israeli occupation forces' practices and provocations against the population of the Syrian village of Ghajar in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, which practices and provocations are intended to divide the village, expel its population and build a wall separating the population from its land and livelihood; to regard Israel's forcing of the civilian population of the village to move to the southern part of the village as a violation of international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention and as a crime against humanity; to regard any action to divide the village as an infringement on Syrian sovereignty over the village; to demand that the international community bear its responsibilities for pressuring Israel to prevent it from dividing the village and to halt the social economic and humanitarian suffering of its population living under occupation; and to support Syria in maintaining its right to adopt the necessary measures to prevent the division of the village.

9. To condemn the massacres and heinous crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces on 15 May (commemorating the Palestinian displacement catastrophe in 1948) and 5 June 2011 (the 44th anniversary of the June 1967 setback), which involved the firing of live rounds at peaceful, unarmed demonstrators (Syrians and Palestinians) on the Syrian side of the cease-fire line in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan, which killed 38 and wounded more than 350 persons.

10. To condemn the hostile, criminal practices of the Israeli occupation authorities, consisting of a major campaign of arrests affecting the population of the occupied village of Majd al-Shams, the forced expulsion from the Golan of dozens of villagers, the imposition of large fines on them, the sentencing of some of them to prison terms, the holding of others pending trial; and to demand that all international institutions and entities condemn such practices and put pressure on Israel to halt such practices against the population of the occupied village of Majd al-Shams.

11. To call upon the Secretariat-General of the United Nations, Security Council, Human Rights Council and civil society organizations active in the field of human rights and international humanitarian law to pressure Israel to release all Syrians of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan who are being held as prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons; to call upon international humanitarian organizations to induce Israel

to permit representatives of the Red Cross to visit such prisoners and detainees accompanied by specialist physicians to ascertain their medical and psychological condition, save their lives and alleviate their suffering stemming from oppressive Israeli practices, the inhuman detention conditions in which they live in Israeli prisons, Israel's policy of physical and psychological coercion and denial of the prisoners' most fundamental human and social rights, all of which adversely affects their health and endangers their lives; and to regard the Israeli occupation authorities' recent arrest of many Syrian citizens on fabricated charges as an attempt to terrorize Syrian citizens in the Golan and to entrench the Israeli occupation of this fundamental part of Syria in flagrant violation of the United Nations resolutions, international humanitarian law and basic human rights principles.

12. Adhere to United Nations resolutions that require the non-recognition of any situation resulting from Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab territories, as any such situation is illegal and does not give rise to any right or obligation; and to regard the establishment of settlements and bringing of settlers thereto as a serious violation of the Geneva Conventions, a war crime under Annex 1 of the Geneva Conventions and a violation of the principles of the peace process, which require the cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and occupied Arab territories.

13. To urge the international community to adhere to United Nations resolutions that reject Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan by condemning the Israeli Government's practices, which attracted 3000 new families to settle in the occupied Arab Syrian Golan in December 2010 after a propaganda campaign was conducted by the so-called Settlers' Council, which was announced on 31 December 2003 with the intent of establishing nine new settlements, expanding existing settlements and increasing the number of settlers therein, and after the necessary appropriations were allocated for these purposes contrary to peaceful Arab and international approaches for achieving a just, comprehensive peace in the region based on United Nations resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative approved at the Beirut summit in 2002.

14. To condemn the Israeli Government's policy, which has destroyed the peace process and spawned an ongoing escalation of tension in the region; to call on the international community to induce Israel to apply United Nations resolutions on the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab Syrian Golan and from all occupied Arab territories to the 4 June 1967 borderline; and to express rejection of the Israeli measures adopted in the Golan to construct an advanced ("smart") security fence along the length of the Syrian-Israeli border.

(Summit resolution 597, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

9. Developments in respect of the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict: solidarity with and support of Lebanon (resolution 598)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, the Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action and the resolutions of the League Council at ministerial level, the latest being resolution 7736 of the 141st ordinary session of 9 March 2014,

Affirming the resolutions of Arab summit conferences, the latest being the Doha summit in 2013,

Noting the latest domestic and international developments concerning Lebanon,

Resolves

1. To affirm Arab solidarity with Lebanon and the provision of political and economic support to Lebanon and its Government to preserve national Lebanese unity and Lebanon's security, stability and sovereignty over all its territory.

2. To support the position of Lebanon and its call upon the international community to implement Security Council resolution 1701, which is based on resolutions 425 and 426, by conclusively ending Israel's violations and constant threats against Lebanon and Lebanese civil installations and infrastructure; and to welcome and affirm support for the conclusions of the International Support Group for Lebanon which were decided on 25 September 2013 in New York and adopted subsequently by the Security Council on 26 November 2013, and the conclusions of the same group which were issued in France on 5 March 2014.

3. To commend the national role played by the Lebanese Army and Lebanese security forces in maintaining stability and civil peace; to support efforts to extend the sovereignty of the Lebanese state to the internationally recognized borders; to welcome the exceptional assistance amounting to 3 billion United States dollars provided to the Lebanese Army by the Custodian of the Two Holy Places, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and to urge other countries to emulate this initiative to strengthen the capabilities of the Lebanese Army and Lebanese security forces to enable them to carry out their national missions.

4. To salute the steadfastness of Lebanon in its resistance to ongoing Israeli aggression against it, particularly the aggression of July 2006; to pray for God's mercy on the souls of the Lebanese martyrs; and to regard the cohesion and unity of the Lebanese people in confronting and opposing Israeli aggression against as guaranteeing Lebanon's future and its security and stability.

5. To condemn Israeli land, sea and air violations of Lebanese sovereignty; to demand that such violations cease immediately, as they flagrantly violate resolution 1701; to condemn the Israeli penetration of Lebanese society through the planting of agents, propagation of Israeli espionage networks and commission of acts of terror that encroach on and flagrantly violate Lebanese sovereignty and threaten Lebanese national security and the peace of Lebanese citizens, which is inconsistent with international law and norms and United Nations resolutions.

6. Affirms:

- The necessity of Israel's withdrawal from all Lebanese territory, including Shab'a Farms, Kafr Shuba hills and the Lebanese portion of the village of Ghajar based on relevant international resolutions, particularly resolution 1701.
- The right of Lebanon and Lebanese to liberate or recover Shab'a Farms, Kafr Shuba hills and the Lebanese portion of the village of Ghajar and to resist with all available legitimate means any Israeli encroachment or occupation; and the

Lebanese Government's compliance with all provisions of Security Council resolution 1701.

- The demand that Israel hand over complete, accurate information and maps pertaining to the locations of all unexploded ordnance, including cluster bombs which it delivered indiscriminately over populated civilian areas during its aggression of the summer of 2006; the demand that Israel hand over information concerning the date, locations, quantity and types of cluster bombs which Israeli forces delivered; and its call upon the international community and United Nations to continue to provide financial and technical support to Lebanon to remove the mines laid by Israel during its occupation of Lebanese territories and to dispose of cluster bombs.

7. Condemn the finite-dimensional electronic warfare which Israel has launched against the Republic of Lebanon through its appreciable boosting of the number of towers, antenna and observation, spying and surveillance devices that are installed along the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine and directed toward Lebanese territory. Specialized Lebanese agencies have observed and analyzed the functions of the Israeli installations and devices and have confirmed that Israel is using them for piracy and espionage against various communication and information networks (cellular telephone network, landline telephone network, Internet network and various media networks), especially those belonging to the Lebanese Army and United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon, as well as email account and communication networks of public and private Lebanese institutions, financial companies, commercial banks and foreign embassies in Lebanon and social media networks. This poses a growing danger and direct, imminent threat to the sovereignty and national and economic security of the Republic of Lebanon and its partners in the Arab world and represents:

- An ongoing, persistent violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Lebanon, international laws and norms and the United Nations Charter.
- A continuous, flagrant violation of United Nations Security Resolution 1701 (2006) and a threat to international security and peace.
- A violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a contradiction of the resolution on the "Right to Privacy in the Digital Age" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by consensus on 18 December 2013.
- A violation of the Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union

8. To assign Israel full responsibility for its acts of aggression, violations and threats against Lebanon and its deliberate targeting of civilians and infrastructure, all of which constitutes a flagrant, serious violation of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions of 1949; to also charge Israel with responsibility for compensating the Republic of Lebanon and Lebanese citizens for the heavy losses, both direct and indirect, incurred by Lebanese and the Lebanese economy as a result of Israeli acts of aggression; to regard Israeli actions during its acts of aggression against Lebanon as war crimes requiring prosecution of the perpetrators thereof before the competent international authorities; to affirm United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/194 of 20 December 2008 on the pollution of the environment (oil slick on Lebanese shores) as a result of the June 2006 aggression, which resolution holds Israel responsible for the damages resulting therefrom and

requires that it pay immediate, adequate compensation to Lebanon and the other countries damaged as a result of that pollution.

9. To affirm the right of Lebanon to its oil and gas resources located within its territorial waters and exclusive economic zone as designated by the maps lodged by the Lebanese Government with the Secretariat-General of the United Nations on 9 July 2010 and 11 October 2010 and which were issued under Decree No. 6433 of 1 October 2011 based on Law No. 163 of 18 August 2011 (delineation of the boundaries of the exclusive zone of the Republic of Lebanon).

10. To affirm Lebanon's rejection of the geographical coordinates lodged by the Mission of Israel to the United Nations concerning the northern portion of the regional waters and exclusive economic zone which it claims belongs to Israel, inasmuch as Israel is clearly violating and encroaching on Lebanon's sovereignty and economic rights in Lebanon's territorial waters and exclusive economic zone, seizing therefrom an area exceeding 860 km^2.

11. To support the action of the Lebanese Government to promote Lebanon's Arab and international role, particularly through an effective presence in the United Nations Organization to defend Lebanon's national rights, Arab rights and issues of justice and peace in the world, the foremost being the issue of Palestine and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people in its confrontation with Israel, Israel's aggressive practices, Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian territories and Israel's violation of international law, including international humanitarian law.

12. To support the position of the Lebanese Government on complying with constitutional provisions that reject resettlement and uphold the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes; to express appreciation for the unequivocal, constant support of the Palestinian people and leadership in rejecting the resettlement of Palestinian refugees in host countries, particularly Lebanon, as stated in paragraph 4 of the Arab Peace Initiative in respect of rejection of the resettlement of Palestinians, which is incompatible with the specific position taken by the host Arab countries; to warn that failure to resolve the issue of such Palestinians based on the right of return to their homes in accordance with United Nations resolutions and principles of international law and that any attempt to resettle them would undermine security and stability and impede a just peace in the region; to welcome the efforts of the Lebanese Government to promote Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue to address all social, economic and daily living issues of the Palestinian refugees in the refugee camps in cooperation with UNRWA and to address outstanding security issues according to the resolutions of the Lebanese National Dialogue Conference concerning Palestinian weapons in Lebanon; to commend the efforts of the Lebanese Government to rebuild the Nahr al-Barid refugee camp; and to call upon states and organizations to fulfil the commitments adopted at the Nahr al-Barid Donors Conference in Vienna and to provide assistance to rebuild the camp.

13. To affirm the keenness of the Lebanese Government to respect United Nations resolutions and to clarify and bring to light the facts in the crime of the assassination of the late Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and members of his entourage without politicization or reprisal, which would adversely affect Lebanon's stability, unity and civil peace; and to affirm that the Lebanese Government is monitoring

with the utmost concern the proceedings of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which commenced its proceedings on 16 January 2014 in The Hague.

14. To support the Lebanese Government's efforts to follow up on the disappearance of his Eminence Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two associates, Sheikh Muhammad Ya'qub and the journalist Abbas Badreddine in order to free them and hold accountable officials of the former Libyan regime to bring this crime to closure; and to welcome the efforts of the State of Libya in this regard and to call upon it to continue its investigations and cooperation with the competent Lebanese authorities at all levels to pave the way for uncovering the circumstances of this national case and freeing of His Eminence the Imam and his associates.

15. To support the efforts of the Lebanese Government and people to host Syrians and Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria and provide for their medical care and daily living needs; to provide all possible essential humanitarian aid to them within Lebanon's limited resources; to affirm the need to help and support Lebanon in this regard, share the burdens and numbers with it and to stem the increase in such burdens and numbers of displaced persons; to emphasize that the temporary nature of the presence of such displaced persons given the existential threat it poses to Lebanon; and to emphasize the pursuit of all possible efforts to ensure they return to their countries as soon as possible.

16. To support the Lebanese Government's efforts to move forward in applying and developing its economic reform policy to upgrade the infrastructure of its national economy, maintain economic stability and strengthen economic growth prospects; to assist in the release of the remaining gifts and loans pledged by the donor countries and organizations to Lebanon; and to implement a number of infrastructure projects.

17. To affirm condemnation of international terrorism, which the Arab states are combating effectively; to affirm the importance and necessity of making a distinction between terrorism and legitimate resistance against the Israeli occupation, which is a right confirmed by international instruments and the principles of international law; and not to regard an act of resistance as a terrorist act.

18. To strongly condemn terrorist armed actions and bombings of various types, including those that have struck Lebanon recently in a number of areas of Tripoli, the Bekaa Valley and Beirut and its suburbs as well as several diplomatic missions accredited by the Republic of Lebanon, which affected innocent Lebanese and threaten national regional security and stability.

19. To commend the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States – in consultation with the Arab countries, Lebanese constitutional institutions and various political powers – to entrench stability and promotes sustainable economic growth in Lebanon to thereby preserve its unity, security and stability; and to commend the Lebanese national dialogue resolutions issued by the Lebanese Parliament and National Dialogue Commission convened at the Republican Palace in Baabda, particularly the Baabda declaration, which was passed by the commission on 11 June 2012.

(Summit resolution 598, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

10. Provision of military support to the Lebanese Army and the strengthening of its capabilities (resolution 599)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Whereas Lebanon daily faces Israeli acts of aggression that violate the sovereignty of its territory, maritime borders and skies,

Whereas Lebanon suffers daily from the infiltration of terrorists into its territory and society and faces sabotage and suicide operations as a result thereof,

Whereas the Lebanese State, headed by his Excellency the President of the Republic, has affirmed the exceptional importance which it attaches to confronting the danger of terrorism and to resisting the Israeli occupation,

Whereas the Lebanese Army Command launched a plan on 15 may 2013 to develop the capabilities of the Army at a cost of 6 billion United States dollars,

Whereas the Lebanese Army has been a leader in maintaining civil peace and protecting Lebanon's borders and has never been the tool of a regime or oppression, but has rather upheld a combat doctrine based on nationalism and Arabism,

Whereas the Lebanese Army helps to strengthen domestic stability and protect the institutions of the Lebanese State in addition to its role in implementing Security Council resolution 1701,

Inasmuch as the highly appreciated Saudi gift to the Lebanese Army provides a major boost to Lebanon's strategy to resist terrorism and strengthen the Army's defensive capabilities,

Whereas the international conference in support of the Lebanese Army, whose preparatory sessions are scheduled for 10 April 2014 in Rome, aims to enable and support the capabilities of the Lebanese Army and provide an opportunity for the fraternal Arab countries to renew and strengthen their support of Lebanon in this regard,

In view of the dangers threatening civil peace in Lebanon, which adversely affect the security and safety of the Arab states and their citizens,

Resolves

1. To support Lebanon in resisting the Israeli occupation and combating terrorism by assisting the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Government's efforts to that end.

2. To participate in providing the material and financial needs of the Lebanese Army according to existing international initiatives and in the framework of the Arab policy of fraternal support by providing the Lebanese Army with the weapons, matériel and technical and logistical equipment it requires according to the national legislation of each State.

(Summit resolution 599, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

11. The Syrian crisis (resolution 600)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Based on resolution 554 of the 23rd ordinary session in Baghdad on 29 March 2012, resolution 580 of the 24th ordinary session in Doha on 26 March 2013, the resolutions of the Council of the League of Arab States at ministerial level and at Permanent Representative level, and the statements of the Ministerial Committee Is Concerned with the Situation in Syria

After hearing the speech of the President of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces during the opening session,

In the light of the report of the Secretary-General and input by the heads of the delegations,

Affirming its firm position on the maintenance of Syrian unity, stability and territorial integrity,

Resolves

1. To call upon the Security Council to bear its responsibilities regarding the deadlock in the negotiations between the opposition and Syrian Government delegations in Geneva; to call upon the Secretary-General of the League to continue his consultations with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and League of Arab States and the various other concerned parties to approve joint action leading to the implementation of a negotiated, political solution to the Syrian crisis and an agreement to form a transitional governing body with full executive authorities as stipulated in the Geneva I Conference statement.

2. To reaffirm Doha summit resolution 580 of 26 March 2013, Ministerial Council resolution 7595 of 6 March 2013; and to welcome the holding of the seat of the Syrian Arab Republic in the League of Arab States by the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces and to recognize the coalition as the legitimate, sole representative of the Syrian people.[2]

3. To affirm the need to continue efforts to bring about a political solution as a priority pursuant to the Geneva I statement of 30 June 2012.

4. To call on representatives of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces to participate in the meetings of the League of Arab States in exception to the rules in effect in the League, starting from the next ordinary session of the Council in September 2014, noting that such participation shall not give rise to any commitments that prejudice the sovereign decision of any Member State in the League of Arab States.

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[2] Noting the reservations of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Republic of Iraq and the disassociation of the Republic of Lebanon in respect of these two resolutions.

- The position of the Republic of Lebanon in respect of the paragraph on "Developments in the situation in Syria" is that "in view of the lack of Syrian-Syrian agreement on much of this resolution, which does not provide for the interest of Syria or a role for the League, or the adoption of any assistance initiative for Syria, we confirm the Lebanese position of disassociation from this resolution."
- Iraq previously had a reservation to paragraph 2 of this resolution on Syria, and has registered its reservation and objection to paragraph 4 of the proposed resolution, because it violates the Charter of the Arab League.

5. That such participation shall not result in any legal obligations for the headquarters state, and that Arab Republic of Egypt and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces shall examine whether privileges and facilities may be granted to the representatives of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces.

6. To welcome Security Council resolution 2139 of 22 February 2014 on the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Syria; and to call on the Security Council to implement the provisions of that resolution and to adopt the necessary measures to impose an immediate cease-fire and halt of all acts of violence, terrorism and destruction and the random, excessive use of heavy weapons against civilians to thereby facilitate relief operations and allow humanitarian aid to reach all besieged, damaged areas in Syria unimpeded.

7. To welcome the results of the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, which was held under the hospitable auspices of His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, on 15 January 2014; to call on the donor countries to quickly fulfil their pledges to assist the states neighbouring Syria and the other Arab countries in their efforts to assist and host Syrian refugees and displaced persons, with emphasis on the need to support and help those states that to bear the burdens of such hosting.

8. To call on the Secretariat-General to continue its efforts with the states hosting Syrian refugees and displaced persons to provide the necessary support to such states and to help them bear the burdens they have assumed to provide relief works and urgent humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees and displaced persons.

(Summit resolution 600, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

12. Adverse, dangerous effects of the Syrian displaced person crisis on Lebanon (resolution 601)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

In respect of the situation in Lebanon concerning Syrian citizens displaced to Lebanon due to the battles occurring in Syria,

In view of the increase in the health, nutritional and educational needs of the displaced persons, who number 1,000,000 according to official statistics of the United Nations,

Resolves

1. To provide material and technical support for the Lebanese Government's efforts to provide for the needs of Syrian displaced persons and to assist them with their needs; and to call on the Member States of the League of Arab States to make efforts to share in bearing the material and numerical burdens.

2. To affirm the temporary nature of the presence of Syrian displaced persons in Lebanon and action to facilitate their return to their countries as quickly as possible.

(Summit resolution 601, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

13. Hardships and burdens borne by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as a result of the Syrian refugee and displaced persons crisis (resolution 602)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

In respect of the situation in Jordan concerning hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have been displaced to, or have sought refuge in, Jordanian territory due to the tragic conditions in Syria,

In view of the increase in the health, nutritional and educational needs of the displaced persons, who number 1,300,000 according to official statistics of the United Nations,

Resolves

1. To provide material and technical support for the Jordanian Government's efforts to provide for the needs of Syrian displaced persons and to assist them in coping with the hardships and burdens they are experiencing; and to call on the Member States of the League of Arab States to make efforts to share in bearing the material and numerical burdens.

2. To affirm the temporary nature of the presence of Syrian displaced persons and refugees in Jordan and to act to facilitate their return to their countries as quickly as possible through collective action to create an environment that encourages them to do so.

(Summit resolution 602, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

14. Hardships and burdens borne by the Republic of Iraq as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis (resolution 603)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

In respect of the situation in Iraq concerning hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have sought refuge in Iraqi territory due to the tragic conditions in Syria,

In view of the increase in the health, nutritional and educational needs of the displaced persons, who number 240,000 according to official statistics of the United Nations,

Resolves

1. To provide material and technical support for the Iraqi Government's efforts to provide for the needs of Syrian displaced persons and to assist them in coping with the hardships and burdens they are experiencing; and to call on the Member States of the League of Arab States to make efforts to share in bearing the material burdens and burdens of providing services.

2. To affirm the temporary nature of the presence of Syrian displaced persons and refugees in Iraq and to act to facilitate their return to their countries as quickly as possible through collective action to create an environment that encourages them to do so.

(Summit resolution 603, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

15. Hardships and burdens borne by the Arab Republic of Egypt as a result of the Syrian refugee crisis (resolution 604)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the Report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

In respect of the situation in Egypt concerning hundreds of thousands of Syrians who have sought refuge in Egypt due to the tragic conditions in Syria,

In view of the increase in the health, nutritional and educational needs of Syrians in Egypt,

Resolves

1. To provide material and technical support for the Egyptian Government's efforts to provide for the needs of Syrian displaced persons and to assist them in coping with the hardships and burdens they are experiencing; and to call on the Member States of the League of Arab States to make efforts to share in bearing the material burdens and burdens of providing services.

2. To affirm the temporary nature of the presence of Syrian refugees in Egypt and act to facilitate their return to their countries as quickly as possible through collective action to create an environment that encourages them to do so.

(Summit resolution 604, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

Economic and social resolutions

16. Follow up on the implementation of Arab summit resolutions adopted at the 24th ordinary session in Doha in March 2013 (resolution 605)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the report of the Secretariat-General on follow-up on the implementation of Arab summit resolutions adopted at the 24th session in Doha in March 2013 and the Economic and Social Council's resolution Q 1980 adopted in its 93rd ordinary session on 13 February 2014,

After hearing the clarifications of the Secretariat-General,

In the light of the discussions,

Resolves

a. To take note of the measures adopted by the Arab countries, Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States, the specialized Arab Ministerial Councils and joint Arab institutions to follow up on the implementation of the economic and social resolutions issued in March 2013; and to call upon them to continue to do so.

(Summit resolution 605, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

17. Follow-up on the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Third Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, January 2013) (resolution 606)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied: the memorandum of the Secretary-General, the memorandum of the Arab Monetary Fund on the Periodic Report on the Global Financial Crisis and Its Repercussions for the Arab Economies; resolution 29 of the third ordinary session of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, 22 January 2013), resolution 1980 of the 93rd ordinary session of the Economic and Social Council of 13 February 2014; and resolution 1984 of the 93rd ordinary session of the Economic and Social Council of 13 February 2014,

Having noted the countries that have ratified the Unified Agreement for the Investment of Capital in Arab States in its amended version, namely the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine,

After hearing the clarifications of the Secretariat-General,

In the light of the discussions,

Resolves

Economic issues:

I. Regarding the Secretary-General's follow up report on the implementation of resolutions issued by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in its third session (Riyadh, January 2013):

Paragraph 1 –the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait to provide the necessary financial resources to support and finance small and medium private enterprises in the Arab world: to commend the progress achieved in the implementation of the aforesaid initiative; and to express appreciation for the efforts of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to implement the initiative, whereby the contributions announced by the Arab countries total 1308 million United States dollars within the account's total capital of 2 billion dollars; and to call upon the countries that have not fully paid their contributions or have yet to announce their contributions to do so.

Paragraph 3 – the global financial crisis and its repercussions for the Arab economies: to thank the Arab Monetary Fund for preparing the Periodic Report on the Global Financial Crisis and Its Repercussions for the Arab Economies.

Paragraph 4 – Arab electricity linkage projects:

a. That Arab and international financing institutions undertake the role needed to support electricity linkage projects by providing grants or soft loans according to the procedures of each institution.

b. To welcome the signing of the memorandum of understanding approved by the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity. This memorandum forms the basis for establishing a common Arab electricity market and represents a commitment to support this market, which will greatly further electricity linkage.

Paragraph 5 – plan to link the Arab states by railway: to call upon the Arab countries and Council of Arab Ministers of Transportation to make all efforts to address impediments to the implementation of Arab railway links and networks.

Paragraph 6 – Emergency Arab Food Security Program:

1. Initiative of his Excellency the President of the Republic of Sudan for Arab agricultural investment in Sudan : to welcome the Economic and Social Council's resolution 1976, (ordinary session, 20 January 2014) on the initiative of his Excellency the President of the Republic of Sudan for Arab agricultural investment in Sudan to help cover the food gap and achieve Arab food security; and to call upon the Arab states to make efforts to facilitate the implementation of the initiative.

2. Emergency Arab Food Security Program:

a. To call upon the Arab states to prepare an environment favourable to investment in the agricultural sector.

b. To call upon the Arab states to provide the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development with detailed data and information on investment projects, financing entities, financing volume and their efforts to implement the three components of the Emergency Arab Food Security Program.

c. To call upon the Arab states, particularly the states that possess abundant agricultural resources, to improve the agricultural investment climate in respect of investment laws and legislation, infrastructure and practices that are inconsistent with investment laws and regulations in effect.

Paragraph 7 – Arab Customs Union: to assign the Secretariat-General to prepare a report, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at ministerial level in its next session, on the latest developments and preparations for the establishment of an Arab Customs Union, including the development of a roadmap for specialists from the Arab states that includes topics that must be researched and prepared to facilitate implementation of the Arab customs union in 2015 according to resolutions of the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit, Economic and Social Council and the visions of the states in this regard.

Paragraph 8 – Arab water security:

a. To assign the Arab Ministerial Council for Water to develop an executive plan for a water security strategy in the Arab region to meet future challenges and requirements for sustainable development for submission to the summit upon completion of the plan.

b. To invite the Arab Center for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, in coordination with Arab and regional financing institutions (Islamic Development Bank, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Abu Dhabi Fund for

Development and the Saudi Fund for Development), which have demonstrated their willingness to provide start-up financing for certain integrated water resource management projects.

Paragraph 14 – the private-sector role in supporting joint Arab action:

a. To continue the economic reform path in the Arab countries and development of the institutional environment for business to thereby promote and ensure investment and promote private investment in priority projects relating to joint Arab action.

b. To call upon the private sector to participate in investing in the production sectors, expanding the production base and achieving sustainable development.

c. To affirm the private sector's role in preparing and actively participating in the activities of Arab forums with other states and regional blocks, particularly the conferences for business persons and investment symposia organized through private-sector mechanisms in the framework of such forums.

Paragraph 19 – Maritime linkage project connecting the Arab countries:

a. To call upon Arab, regional and international financing funds and institutions to assist, according to their procedures, the Arab countries in acquiring or undertaking the financial leasing of vessels to enable the operation of shipping lines linking the main ports in the Arab states through the use of feeder vessels and roll-on/roll-off vessels carrying the flags of the Arab states to transport shipments of goods; and to examine the possibility of financing ready-to-implement projects of the Arab states that serve the Maritime Linkage Project Connecting the Arab Countries.

b. To call upon the Arab private sector to increase investment in maritime transport.

Paragraph 20 – Arab Internet Network Linkage Project:

a. To affirm the need for the Arab states to intensify their participation in the activities of the working group concerned with the implementation of the Arab Internet Network Linkage Project and the need for communication between the telecommunication and information technology authorities and Internet service providers and operators to confirm their participation in the group's activities and in the implementation of the project.

b. To assign telecommunication and information technology authorities in the governments of the Arab states to adopt the necessary measures, in cooperation with Internet service providers and operators, to promote the establishment of national Internet exchange points as the first necessary stage in the implementation of the project.

c. To assign the Secretariat-General of the League of Arab States to hold – in coordination with the regional Arab office of the International Telecommunications Union, the Arab Organization for Telecommunication and Information Technologies, and with the collaboration of the concerned regional organizations – plenary workshops to raise the awareness of the various sectors and groups in the Arab states of the gains that can be achieved by the Arab states from the implementation of the Arab Internet Network Linkage Project and to present successful experiences and best domestic, regional and international practices in this regard.

Paragraph 21 – Arab World Initiative of the World Bank:

a. To note the efforts made to implement the Arab World Initiative of the World Bank.

b. To continue to strengthen cooperation between the Secretariat-General and the World Bank in the areas mentioned in the memorandum of understanding signed by the two sides, particularly to facilitate trade and promote capacity building for workers in the Arab states in this area.

c. To note the World Bank's completion of the third part of a comprehensive study on Arab electricity linkage and evaluation of the exploitation of natural gas for the export of electricity, and the publication of the World Bank report on the first stage of a study on the legal, institutional and legislative frameworks for the soon-to-be established common Arab electricity market.

Paragraph 22 – promotion of efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals (seventh goal):

a. To note the efforts of the Arab Ministerial Council for Water to ensure the sustainable supply of safe drinking water and basic sewerage services for citizens consistent with the achievement of the seventh Millennium Development Goal; and to invite the aforesaid Council to provide the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit with the first Arab report on progress achieved in the implementation of the Millennial Development Goals in respect of water supplies and sanitation when the report is completed.

b. To note the efforts of the Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction to bring about a major improvement in the living conditions of residents of poor and shantytown neighbourhoods; and to call upon the aforesaid council to continue such efforts and to report new developments in this regard to the summit.

Paragraph 23 – Arab projects in support of the steadfastness of Jerusalem:

a. To express gratitude and appreciation for the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Places to allocate 200 million dollars in support of the steadfastness of Palestinian cities.

b. To thank the Arab states that have fulfilled their commitments and made contributions to support the resources of the al-Aqsa Fund and the Jerusalem Uprising Fund under the resolution of the extraordinary Cairo summit (2000), the resolution on additional support for the aforesaid two funds based on the resolution of the Beirut summit (2002) and the resolution of the Siirt Summit (2010) in support of Jerusalem; and to call upon the Arab states that have yet to fulfil their commitments to support these two funds (al-Aqsa and Jerusalem) to quickly fulfil their commitments to contribute to the protection of the holy city and its holy places from the ongoing Israeli aggression to which they are subject.

c. To affirm support for the Palestinian people in its opposition to the Israeli occupation authorities' Judaization of the holy city, displacement of its residents and alteration of its geographic and demographic character; and to act quickly to implement the resolution issued in this regard by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in its third session, particularly regarding the continuation of efforts to support Jerusalem and development projects therein in ongoing

coordination and cooperation among the League of Arab States, Palestinian National Authority, specialized Arab Ministerial Councils, specialized Arab organizations and Arab financial institutions and funds based on the mechanisms provided in the resolution.

II. Investment in the Arab states – the amended Unified Agreement for the Investment of Arab Capital in the Arab States:

To call upon the Arab states that have not ratified the Unified Agreement for the Investment of Arab Capital in the Arab States to quickly ratify and implement the agreement.

III. Arab Strategy for Developing Renewable Energy Uses (2010-2030):

a. To note the completion of the preparation of a roadmap for implementing the Arab Strategy for Developing Renewable Energy Uses (2010-2030).

b. To call upon the Arab financing funds to participate in implementing renewable energy projects to facilitate the dissemination of renewable energy technologies.

IV. Measures adopted for Bahrain's hosting of the Arab Common Exchange Holding

To call upon the countries wishing to participate in the Arab Common Exchange to support it and confer on it an Arab identity that embodies Arab economic integration.

V. Measures adopted regarding the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Places to support joint Arab financial institutions and joint Arab companies:

a. To note the measures taken by the Arab financing funds to complete the minimum 50 percent increase in their capital.

b. To call upon joint Arab companies to adopt the necessary measures resolved by their general assemblies to complete the minimum 50 percent increase in their capital.

c. To assign the Secretariat-General of the League (Economic Affairs Sector) to hold a coordination meeting with representatives of the joint Arab companies to discuss measures concerning the resolution on the initiative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Places and to submit a report thereon to the Economic and Social Council.

Social issues:

I. report of the Secretary-General on follow-up on the implementation of resolutions issued by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in its third session (Riyadh, January 2013):

a. To note the efforts of the Member States, Ministerial Councils and specialized Arab organizations to implement the resolutions of the Economic and Social Development Summit in its first session (Kuwait 2009), second session (Sharm al-Shaykh, 2011) and third session (Riyadh, 2013); and to call upon them to continue their efforts in respect of the implementation of the following social resolutions:

Paragraph 2 – Health conditions of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip

Paragraph 9 – Program to support employment and reduce unemployment in the Arab countries

Paragraph 10 – Arab program to reduce poverty in the Arab countries

Paragraph 11 – Arab program to implement the Millennium Development Goals

Paragraph 12 – Development of education in the Arab world

Paragraph 13 – Improvement of healthcare

Paragraph 15 – Promotion of the role of Arab civil society organizations

Paragraph 21 – Arab World Initiative of the World Bank (social aspects)

Paragraph 22 – Promotion of efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals.

Paragraph 23 – Arab projects to support the steadfastness of Jerusalem (social aspects)

II. Millennium Development Goals – 2000-2015 and beyond

III. Combating of non-infectious diseases:

b. To assign the committee concerned with preparing for the Arab economic and social development summits to continue its efforts to implement the resolutions issued by the previous three development summits, address difficulties and impediments to the full implementation of the resolutions and submit a report containing proposals for addressing such difficulties to the Economic and Social Council.

(Summit resolution 606, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

18. Preparation for the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit in Tunis (resolution 607)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretary-General and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1957 of the 92nd ordinary session (12 September 2013) and 1979 and 1980 of the 93rd ordinary session (13 February 2014),

After hearing the clarifications of the Secretariat-General and the delegation of the Republic of Tunisia,

In the light of the discussions,

Resolves

To express its gratitude and appreciation to the Republic of Tunisia and the Secretariat-General for their efforts in preparing well for the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Tunis, 2015) and to call upon them to continue their efforts.

(Summit resolution 607, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

19. The secretary-general's renewable energy initiative (resolution 608)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the resolution of the Third Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, 2013) (summit resolution, 31st ordinary session, third meeting, 22 January 2013), resolution 1980 of the 93rd ordinary session of the Economic and Social Council of 13 February and the Report on the Use of Renewable Energy Sources in the Arab Countries,

In the light of the presentation made by his Excellency the Secretary-General

In the light of discussions,

Resolves

1. To welcome the Secretary-General's renewable energy initiative.

2. To assign the Secretary-General and the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity to adopt the necessary measures on the comprehensive use of renewable energy sources in the Arab states and to seek the assistance of the concerned entities in the Arab world as it deems appropriate to research ways for promoting renewable energy, taking into account the Arab Strategy for the Development of Renewable Energy Uses (2010-2030), which was approved by the Third Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Riyadh, 2013), and to present the results achieved to the Fourth Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Tunis, 2015).

3. To welcome the Arab renewable energy forum which the Kingdom of Morocco has resolved to hold in 2015. This forum will provide an opportunity to exchange experiences, network and develop joint renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Arab world.

(Summit resolution 608, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

20. Creation of an Arab mechanism in the League of Arab States General Secretariat for coordinating humanitarian and social assistance in the Arab states (resolution 609)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General, resolution 572 of the League of Arab States in its 24th ordinary session at summit level on 26 March 2013, resolution 198 of the Economic and Social Council in its 93rd session on 13 February 2014, resolution 1980 of the economic and social Council in its 93rd session on 13 February 2014, the report of the working group assigned to review the charter and developed the conceptual framework for the joint Arab action system, the report of the meeting of the Open-Membership Committee for the Reform and Development of the Arab League held on to March 2014,

Affirming support for all Arab and international efforts to provide humanitarian and social assistance in the Arab states,

Commending the outcomes of the proceedings of the First and Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria in Kuwait in 2013 and 2014,

After hearing the clarifications of the Secretariat-General,

In light of the discussions,

Resolves

1. To note the efforts of the Secretary-General to create a mechanism in the framework of the Secretariat-General to coordinate humanitarian and social assistance of the Arab states.

2. To assign the Secretariat-General to: prepare a study on the aforesaid mechanism, including its method of operation; identify the relevant concerned entities; prepare the necessary data bases in accordance with the amended Agreement on Arab Corporation Regulating and Facilitating Relief Operations; and present a report in this regard to the Economic and Social Council in its 94th ordinary session in September 2014.

(Summit resolution 609, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

21. Time and location of the 26th ordinary session of the League of Arab States at summit level (resolution 610)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Pursuant to article 4, paragraph (a) of the Annex on the Regular Convening of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, which stipulates that "ordinary sessions of the Council at summit level shall be convened at League headquarters in Cairo, though the State which holds the summit presidency may move to host it, if it so wishes,"

Based on the agreement reached between the United Arab Emirates and the Arab Republic of Egypt on United Arab Emirates' concession of its presidency of the 26th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level to the Arab Republic of Egypt,

Resolves

To welcome the convening of the 26th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level under the presidency of the Arab Republic of Egypt during March 2015.

(Summit resolution 610, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

22. Expression of gratitude and appreciation to the State of Kuwait (resolution 611)

The Council of the League of Arab States at summit level,

Having studied the memorandum of the Secretariat-General and the report of the Secretary-General on Joint Arab Action,

Expressing its appreciation to the State of Kuwait for its hospitable hosting of the proceedings of the 25th ordinary session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, and for its considerable efforts in preparing and organizing the proceedings of the session,

Resolves

1. To express sincere gratitude and the utmost appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, for his considerable efforts in ensuring the success of the summit and his astute conduct of its proceedings, and to affirm full confidence in his composed leadership of the advancement and expansion of joint Arab action to firmly establish Arab solidarity for a better future that serves the Arab nation.

2. To express gratitude to the Government and people of the State of Kuwait for their warm reception, generous hospitality and good organization of the meetings of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level in the preparatory councils preceding the summit, and for their provision of all resources and arrangements required for the success of the summit under optimal conditions and the culmination of the proceedings in the desired outcomes.

(Summit resolution 611, 25th ordinary session – 26 March 2014)

Declaration of Kuwait

Strengthening of Arab Solidarity to Achieve a Comprehensive Arab Renaissance

We, the leaders of the Arab countries, meeting in Kuwait on 25-26 March 2014 in the 25th session of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level, which is dedicated to strengthening Arab solidarity to achieve a comprehensive Arab renaissance,

- Reaffirm our commitment to the Charter of the League of Arab States and the treaties and conventions ratified by the Arab states to strengthen inter-Arab relations and the bonds between the Arab states to promote the conditions of the Arab nation, strengthen its position and promote its humanitarian role.

- Renew our commitment to find the necessary solutions for the delicate, critical circumstances being experienced in the Arab world based on a profound insightful vision that is open to a course correction to achieve the interests of the Arab states and peoples, preserve their rights, support their gains and boost their ability to overcome the political and security difficulties impeding them and build a national model in which all segments of its peoples can live together based on coexistence, equal citizenship and social justice.

- Declare our resolve to firmly establish better relations among our fraternal countries by reconciling our views and bridging the gap between various opinions, affirming that inter-Arab relations are based essentially and primarily on Arab solidarity as the optimal, straightest path to achieving the interests of the Arab peoples and states. We pledge to act resolutely to put an end to Arab divisiveness through fruitful, constructive dialogue and to end all manifestations of discord through openness and transparency in word and deed.

- Commit to supporting fraternal states that have been experiencing political transitions and social transformations to rebuild the state and its institutions, structures and legislative and executive systems; to provide material and technical assistance to them to enable them to complete the transition safely and securely, build a stable society based on social justice, equality and fairness and build effective, efficient institutions capable of consolidating civil peace, achieving social advancement and engendering profound transformations in society that advance the state and promote ongoing economic development.

- Declare, based on our belief in the role of the Arab individual in building and developing his society, our approval in principle of the draft charter of the Arab Human Rights Court, which was established upon the initiative of His Highness King Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifa, the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain. We assign the high level committee to continue its efforts and activity to develop the final version of the draft for presentation to the next meeting of the Council. The establishment of this court responds to the aspirations of the Arab peoples. It is a quantum leap in the Arab world and affirms the principle of the rule of law, establishing for the first time in contemporary Arab history firm foundations for the protection of the rights of the Arab individual.

- Affirm our consummate desire to strengthen Arab national security to ensure our states' safety and national territorial integrity and to strengthen their ability

to deal with internal hardships facing them and external challenges threatening their safety, to thereby accelerate growth and achieve comprehensive development to build societies that are characterized by social cohesiveness benefiting the broadest segments of society, especially the poorest and marginalized groups, to promote social welfare in the Arab societies in all fields according to all measures.

- Reaffirm, as we recall the challenges facing the Arab nation, that the Palestinian issue continues to be a central issue for the peoples of the Arab nation. We shall dedicate all our efforts to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem based on the 4 June 1967 borders according to United Nations resolutions, particularly resolutions 242, 338 and 1397, the Arab Peace Initiative, relevant Arab summit resolutions and the statements and resolutions of the European Union, particularly the Brussels Declaration, all of which affirm the two-state solution and the establishment of a just, permanent peace in the Middle East.

- Call upon the Security Council to bear its responsibilities for adopting the necessary measures and establishing practical mechanisms for resolving all aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region based on a two-state solution according to the 1967 borders and implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions to end Israel's occupation of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border.

- Charge Israel with full responsibility for the faltering of the peace process and the continuing tension in the Middle East. We express our absolute, categorical rejection of recognition of Israel as a Jewish state, the continued settlement and Judaization of Jerusalem, encroachment on its Islamic and Christian holy sites and the changing of its demographic and geographical character, which are null and void under international law, United Nations resolutions, the Geneva Convention and the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property.

- Express our firm condemnation of the Israeli occupation authorities' encroachments on al-Aqsa Mosque and our rejection of attempts by the Israeli occupation to wrest away Jordanian sovereignty over the mosque. We call on the international community, Security Council, European Union and UNESCO to bear their responsibilities in protecting al-Aqsa Mosque according to international resolutions issued in respect thereof.

- Commend the efforts and initiatives undertaken by His Highness King Mohammed VI, the King of the Kingdom of Morocco and Chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, to protect the legal status of the city of Jerusalem and its Arab, Islamic character and to help enable Jerusalemites to be steadfast in their city.

- Affirm the illegality and legal nullity of the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. We call on the international community to continue its efforts to halt Israeli settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territories and implement relevant international resolutions, particularly resolution 465 (1980) and resolution 497 (1981), which establish the illegality of settlement activity and the need to dismantle the existing settlements.

- Call for: respect of Palestinian national legitimacy under the leadership of His Excellency President Mahmoud Abbas, appreciation of his national reconciliation efforts, the need to respect the legitimate institutions of the Palestinian National Authority emanating from the Palestine Liberation Organization and commitment to unified Palestinian decision-making and representation.

- Affirm that Palestinian national reconciliation is the only true guarantee of the achievement of the aspirations of the Palestinian people in respect of national independence. We call for the implementation of the national reconciliation agreement signed on for May 2011. We express our gratitude to the Arab Republic of Egypt for its ongoing auspices and continuing assiduous efforts to achieve Palestinian national reconciliation. We also welcome the Doha Declaration, which provides for the formation of an independent national transition government to prepare the environment for presidential and parliamentary elections.

- Call upon the international community to pressure Israel to lift its blockade of the Gaza Strip, open the crossings from and to the Gaza Strip, and implement the crossings agreement reached on November 15, 2005, particularly following the transformation of the Gaza Strip into a large prison, Israel's refusal to open the crossings, Israel's refusal to permit the construction of a port, reconstruction of the airport and establishment of a safe corridor between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and its refusal to allow the entry of construction materials to rebuild what was destroyed by the recent Israeli war against the Gaza Strip. We express our gratitude and appreciation for the measures adopted by the Arab Republic of Egypt in respect of the Rafah crossing to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

- Affirm our resolute support for Syria's just demands regarding its right to recover all territories of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan to the 4 June 1967 border. We call upon the international community to implement resolutions in this regard. We also affirm our rejection of all measures taken by the Israeli occupation authorities to change the legal, natural and demographic status of the occupied Arab Syrian Golan. We consider the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab Syrian Golan an ongoing threat to peace and security in the region and world.

- Affirm our full solidarity with the Republic of Lebanon and provision of political and economic support for it to maintain its national unity, security, stability and sovereignty over all its territory. We support Lebanon's demand that the international community implement Security Council resolution 1701, which is based on resolutions 425 and 426, and that Israel conclusively halt its encroachments on Lebanese territory.

- Commend the national role of the Lebanese Army and Lebanese security forces in maintaining stability and civil peace. We affirm the need to strengthen their capacities to enable them to perform their national missions. We salute the steadfastness of Lebanon in resisting the ongoing Israeli aggression against it, particularly the July 2006 aggression.

- Affirm our full solidarity with the Syrian people and fully affirm the Syrian people's legitimate demands for its right to freedom, democracy, justice,

equality and the establishment of a state system in which all Syrian citizens enjoy the right to participate in all state institutions without exclusion or discrimination due to ethnicity, religion or sect. We also affirm our firm support for the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

- Call upon the Syrian regime to immediately cease all military actions against Syrian civilians and conclusively end the bloodshed and loss of life. We condemn vigorously the massacres and mass killing committed by the forces of the Syrian regime against unarmed people, including those forces' use of internationally prohibited weapons. We call upon the Arab states and all states of the world to act urgently to stop the bloodbath, violation and displacement of Syrian citizens from their homes.

- Call for a political solution to the Syrian crisis according to the Geneva I statement, which allows the Syrian people a peaceful transition to rebuild the state and achieve national reconciliation to ensure the maintenance of Syria's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We also call upon the international community to contribute effectively and practically to the achievement of a political solution to the Syrian crisis and an end to the war and fighting.

- Highly commend the efforts of his Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah and his initiatives to provide humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and displaced persons and ease their suffering. We also highly commend the generous material support provided by the State of Kuwait and its people to improve the humanitarian situation of the Syrian people and the solicitude shown by His Highness in monitoring the humanitarian affairs of our brothers in Syria.

- Express our solidarity with the State of Libya and our support for its efforts to maintain its national sovereignty and independence. We reject the compromise of its stability and territorial integrity. We support its efforts to rebuild and to build institutions of state, including the formulation of a constitution and the promotion of national reconciliation.

- Welcome the outcomes of the inclusive National Dialogue Conference in the Republic of Yemen. We affirm our full support for the unity of Yemen in respect of its sovereignty and independence. We reject any interference in its domestic affairs. We support the aspirations of the Yemeni people in respect of Yemen's unity, prosperity and stability under a modern, civil democratic government that is based on consensus, a national partnership and good governance.

- Affirm Security Council resolution 2140 and the need for all Yemeni political parties to comply therewith.

- Support the Yemeni political leadership in its efforts to deal with acts of violence or damage to Yemen's stability, security and unity. We support Yemen in its war against terrorism.

- Reaffirm our established position in respect of the United Arab Emirates' sovereignty over its three islands, Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa. We support all peaceful means and measures adopted by the United Arab

Emirates to regain its sovereignty over its occupied islands. We call upon Iran to respond to the initiative of the United Arab Emirates to seek a peaceful solution to the issue of the three islands through earnest, direct negotiations or recourse to the International Court of Justice.

- Affirm our full solidarity with the Republic of Sudan. We support its national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. We reject intervention in its domestic affairs. We support the Sudanese Government in its efforts to implement all agreements which it has concluded with the Republic of South Sudan. We call upon the international community to fulfil international pledges to cover the deficit in the Sudanese economy and to forgive Sudan's debts based on the international initiatives undertaken in this regard.

- Welcome the signing of the peace agreement between the Sudanese Government and the Justice and Equality Movement in Doha on 6 April 2013. We affirm the need for all rebel movements to join the peace agreements signed in respect of Darfur and to join the Doha Agreement of 2011.

- Welcome the ongoing improvement in the political and security stabilization operations in the Federal Republic of Somalia. We express our appreciation for the role undertaken by the African Union Mission in Somalia and its cooperation with the forces of the Somali Government to reinforce security. We condemn the terrorist acts committed by the Shabab organization against the Somali Government and people and against the African Union Mission. We call upon all countries of the word to provide all types of support and assistance to the Somali Government to enable it to achieve peace, establish security and build state institutions.

- Affirm our full observance of the national unity, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Federal Republic of the Comoro Islands. We also affirm the identity of the Comoron island of Mayotte and reject the French occupation of it. We call upon the French Government to return the island of Mayotte to Comoron sovereignty. We urge the donor states and Arab and international financing institutions to support development programs in the Comoro Islands.

- Commend the initiative of the countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to grant Djibouti $200 million to support development projects therein.

- Welcome the agreement signed between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea under the auspices of the State of Qatar. We support the implementation of this agreement in order to address all outstanding issues and to promote the normalization of relations between the two countries. We reaffirm the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Djibouti. We reject any encroachment on Djibouti territory.

- Reiterate our firm belief in coexistence with neighbouring Arab countries and the promotion of security and regional peace based on good neighbourliness, constructive cooperation, non-interference in the internal affairs of the Arab countries, resolution of disputes through peaceful means and earnest dialogue and observance of international law and United Nations principles concerning the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. We affirm our desire to establish close relations among the Arab states based on

equality and mutual respect for the interests and rights of all peoples of the states of the region, including their right to freely choose their system of government and the nature of their institutions and national legislation.

- Affirm the importance of strengthening Arab cooperation with regional groupings through the mechanism established for convening joint summits with such groupings. In this context, we highly appreciate the efforts made by His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah in ensuring the success of the proceedings of the Third Arab-African Summit, which the State of Kuwait hosted during 19-20 November 2013. We call for implementation of the resolutions and outcomes of the summit and promotion of summit mechanisms to strengthen Arab-African relations and to forge closer links in all fields with the African states.

- Renew our firm position on the urgent establishment in the Middle East region of a zone that is free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and the end of the arms race in the region. We reaffirm our adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We call for the convening of an international summit to establish the Middle East has a region that is free of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction as soon as possible. We call upon the international community to compel Israel to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to dismantle its arsenal of nuclear weapons. We welcome the preliminary agreement signed by the group of 5+1 with Iran in November 2013 as a first step toward a comprehensive, permanent agreement on Iran's nuclear program. We call for the precise, full implementation of this agreement under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

- Reaffirm our resolute condemnation of all types, forms and manifestations of terrorism, regardless of its source. We consider terrorism a criminal act regardless of its motives and justifications. We call for earnest, urgent action to combat and uproot terrorism and to dry up its ideological and material wellsprings. We declare our categorical rejection of all forms of blackmail by terrorist groups, whether threats, the killing of hostages or the demand of ransom to finance their terrorist crimes. We demand the cessation of all forms of publicity or media promotion of terrorist ideologies, incitement to hatred, division and sectarianism, the declaring of Muslims as disbelievers and contempt for religions and beliefs.

- Affirm our support for Arab solidarity and the adoption of joint economic and social action as the primary foundation of Arab cooperation by increasing the interdependence of output structures in the Arab world to ensure the gradual transformation of the Arab economies into globally competitive economies and to develop the Arab economies, especially production economies and information economies.

- Renew our commitment to ensure sustainable economic development and to diversify economic resources to achieve ongoing, long-term economic and social development by giving priority to industrial and agricultural development strategies that achieve inclusive development goals, including the expansion of women's participation in the labour force and the expansion of the capacity of medium and small industries that support the oil and gas sector, infrastructure and utilities sector, tourism sector and construction sector.

– Call upon the concerned agencies in the Arab governments to increase trade between the Arab states by integrating the Arab economies and implementing agreements concluded among the Arab states – particularly those concerning the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, customs union and common Arab market – by creating credible dispute settlement mechanisms, eliminating non-customs trade barriers, reducing transaction costs, especially transportation costs, eliminating bureaucracy in trade dealings and developing solutions for the infrastructure crisis and capacity constraints.

– Call upon the education authorities in the Arab states to urgently: promote the entire educational establishment; qualify it to perform its mission effectively, professionally and proficiently; and develop quality curriculum, particularly science curricula, to keep pace with current technological developments and new scientific developments and ensure that graduates possess advanced skills and knowledge that permit them to further the development process and achieve a comprehensive Arab renaissance.

– Commit to continuously and systematically building the human resource capacities of the Arab states through educational and vocational training institutions to increase human capital that is capable of promoting development, with concern for the eradication of illiteracy, particularly among women and in rural areas as quickly as possible, to ensure a fully literate society empowered by science and knowledge.

– Urge follow-up on institutional and structural reform of the joint Arab action system, updating of it its methods, activation of its mechanisms and development of its legislation and laws, so that it participates effectively and efficiently in achieving a comprehensive Arab renaissance.

– Call for the development of the machinery of the Council of the League of Arab States at summit level to include holding specific Arab summits concerned with high-priority issues for developing the Arab states and enhancing the human welfare of Arab citizens. Such summits would dedicate their proceedings to examining, discussing and formulating effective solutions for high-priority issues, especially in the areas of education, culture, health, women's issues, youth, childhood and human rights.

– Express – as we affirm our resolve to implement this declaration in order to strengthen Arab solidarity and bring about a comprehensive Arab renaissance on all tracks – our sincere gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, for his excellent , insightful conduct of the summit proceedings, his desire to promote Arab solidarity, his solicitude for the achievement of progress and comprehensive development in the Arab world and his considerable contributions in this regard.

– Express our deep gratitude to the State of Kuwait and its hospitable people for their warm reception and generous hospitality and to the Government of the State of Kuwait and its agencies for their good organization, careful preparation and good conduct of the Arab summit proceedings. We also thank His Excellency the Secretary-General and the staff of the League of Arab States for their keenness to ensure the success of the summit proceedings.

Summit/25 (03/14)/34-Speech (0164)

Speech Delivered by his Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait at the Opening Session

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Excellencies and Highnesses

His Excellency the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

His Excellency the Secretary-General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf

His Excellency the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Distinguished guests

Salutations,

Sincere brotherly greetings. I welcome you distinguished brothers and guests to your second country, the State of Kuwait. I would like to thank you for responding to our invitation to attend the proceedings of the 25th session of the Arab summit. It reflects your desire to continue working in the framework of our Arab convocation. It embodies our conviction in the importance of supporting and strengthening joint Arab action. I would be remiss if I did not commend the fraternal State of Qatar, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, for its efforts in assiduously following up on the proceedings of the previous session of our summit and the resolutions issuing therefrom in support of joint Arab action.

Excellencies and Highnesses,

The proceedings of this summit are being held amid delicate, difficult circumstances in the world and in our region. The circumstances pose growing challenges and risks, requiring of us greater efforts and intensified consultations to review and evaluate the measures that have been adopted and to look ahead to determine which paths will ensure the advancement of joint Arab action to realize the hopes and aspirations of our peoples for security and prosperity.

We are called upon today to examine the foundations of our joint Arab work and identify ways to strengthen and consolidate its pillars, as we focus on factors that unite us in such action while eschewing discord and disagreement.

The soundness of this approach and the correctness of our vision and thinking are borne out by the exemplary success of major summits. In this respect, the Arab economic summits have been hugely successful, with outcomes that have addressed and sought to make the needs of the people of our nation. We are thus driven to examine other unifying horizons that strengthen our unity and bring our peoples together.

Let me speak to you candidly about a sad matter that requires of us a sincere stand and earnest effort to bring it to an end, namely the expanding conflicts in the Arab nation that are shaking our existence, values, hopes and aspirations and that have preoccupied us at the expense of our cohesion and capacity to address challenges.

We are called upon to reject these differences, to earnestly strive for unity and harmony and to work together in a framework that unites us and overcomes our estrangement. The dangers surrounding us are great. We will not be able to

undertake the joint Arab action to which we aspire without being unified and without rejecting discord.

The area of agreement among us is greater than the area of disagreement. We must exploit this area of agreement and work within its broad framework to create an Arab space brimming with hope and achievement. In this way, we can realize our desire to start anew and to be able to move forward in our joint Arab action. The alternative of circling in the narrow orbit of discord will only exhaust us, waste time and delay the realization of our hopes.

We realize that true joint Arab action can proceed only if we achieve the rates of sustainable development sought by our peoples, who are facing many challenges, particularly the global water shortage. We are thus called upon to research, study and strengthen sources of the supply of this vital resource to ensure its continued flow while avoiding conflict and tension, of which there are many indications unfortunately.

We all suffer from terrorism, which has recently escalated under various religious and ideological pretexts and slogans. Terrorism seeks to kill innocent people, terrorize peaceful people and obstruct development. It targets the security and stability of humanity and its gains.

Monotheistic religions have rejected this hateful phenomenon and have criminalized it, placing upon us the major responsibility of combating it.

We are called upon to increase our efforts and to join international efforts to eliminate this dangerous phenomenon, regardless of its form, aim or source and to rid humanity of its evil, so that the world may enjoy peace and stability.

The humanitarian disaster in Syria is entering its fourth year, reaping tens of thousands of innocent victims who are our brothers, destroying all manifestations of life and displacing close to half of Syria's population, forcing them into harsh living conditions in the greatest catastrophe of our contemporary history. Let me dwell here, in great sorrow and pain, on the most recent report issued by UNICEF, which confirms that the disaster in Syria as resulted in the loss of an entire generation. Five and a half million Syrian children live exposed to the elements, three million children have abandoned their schools and the child victimization rate is the highest of any conflict at present. We are facing a painful reality and a humanitarian, ethical and legal catastrophe. Words are useless to condemn it. Words of pain and anguish will not end it. The danger is imminent and the losses are enormous. One who thinks that he is aloof from its destructive effects is mistaken. Time has proven that the danger of this destructive conflict now transcends Syrian and regional borders to threaten the security and stability of the world. In the face of this bitter reality, we again call upon the Security Council to restore its credibility as the body entrusted with maintaining global peace and security. We call upon its members to rise above their differences to end this catastrophe.

We feel the tragedy of our brothers. We are working assiduously to alleviate the brunt of this tragedy. My country, Kuwait, again responded to the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and hosted the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria. By the grace of God Almighty and thanks to the participation of yourselves and friendly, activist countries and their well-known generosity, we were able to achieve the conference goal of helping to alleviate the suffering of our brothers. We affirm to our brothers that we stand by their side.

The pledges made during the conference have been transferred to the United Nations agencies and organizations to be used to provide for the needs of our brothers.

The Israeli mentality continues to reject peace and undermine all efforts to ensure the success of the peace process. It opposes this process, to which we aspire, by insisting on building settlements and by committing extremist encroachments to control and change the features of al-Aqsa Mosque.

We will not enjoy stability and peace until Israel abandons its aggressive tendencies and inclines towards peace.

A just, comprehensive peace in the region, to which we all aspire, will be achieved only by establishing an independent Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem based on United Nations principles and resolutions, the principle of land in exchange for peace and the Arab Peace Initiative.

From this podium, I again call upon the international parties concerned with the Middle East peace process to bear their responsibilities and to pressure Israel to compel it to comply with all United Nations resolutions and cease settlement activity. In this regard, I commend the efforts of the United States of America and its role in the resumption of negotiations in the Middle East peace process

We again call upon our friends in Iran to continue to implement the pledges set forth in the preliminary agreement which Iran signed. That agreement includes the joint action plan signed by Iran and the 5+1 group on 24 November 2013 under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Is intended to alleviate the concerns of the countries of the region regarding Iran's nuclear program, strengthen the confidence of the international community and eliminate all manifestations of tension from our region, so that it may enjoy stability and we may focus our efforts on achieving the aspirations of our peoples.

I salute the brothers in Yemen for the national consensus reached through the National Dialogue Conference. It is an essential step at this delicate time. It will help achieve security, stability and prosperity consistent with the objectives of the Gulf initiative, which embodies the desire for the unity of the Republic of Yemen and respect for the choices of its fraternal people.

We salute the brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt for the important steps they have taken to implement the roadmap to achieve security and stability throughout Egypt, so that it can resume its leading role in Arab issues. We wish them success and good luck in achieving the aspirations of the fraternal Egyptian people for stability and prosperity.

We salute the brothers in Lebanon for forming a new Lebanese Government, which is a great merit in these delicate circumstances. May the new government discharge its functions to promote Lebanon's stability and achieve the aspirations of its fraternal people.

We also salute the brothers in Tunisia for passing a new constitution, which marks a new stage embodying the Tunisians' desire for stability, adherence to democracy and the start of efforts to advance and develop their country

Again, I welcome you. I hope that you will have a good stay and I wish you success and good luck in the summit proceedings.

Summit/25 (03/14)/35-Speech (0165)

Speech delivered by His Excellency Dr. Nabil al-Arabi, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States at the Opening Session

In the Name of God, the Merciful and Compassionate

Highnesses and Excellencies

Ladies and gentlemen

It pleases me to first extend greetings to His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah for presiding over the proceedings of this summit. His Highness and the Government and people of Kuwait have our appreciation and gratitude for generously hosting the proceedings of this 25th session of the Arab summit. The State of Kuwait, with its prudent diplomacy, has always been effective in supporting Arab issues and strengthening joint Arab action. It was only just a few months ago that it graciously sponsored and hosted the Third Arab-African Summit, which was held here in this hall.

I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, for his country's presidency of the proceedings of the previous session of the Arab summit and for his efforts in implementing the summit resolutions. I welcome the participation of His Highness for the first time in the proceedings of the Arab summit.

It pleases me to welcome his Excellency, Judge Adly Mansour, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the occasion of his Excellency's first participation in this important Arab summit, and I congratulate Egypt on its hosting of the next Arab summit.

Mr. President,

We are holding this summit under the slogan "Solidarity for a Better Future." We aspire to translate this slogan into tangible measures that move us beyond the current critical stage in inter-Arab relations to meet the challenges that are seriously endangering Arab national security.

The holding of the summit in the state of Kuwait provides a glimpse of hope for the slogan of "Arab solidarity." There is a need to clear the air, remove the causes of disagreement, entrench the values of Arab solidarity and place greater Arab interests above all other considerations.

Hence, we must deal transparently, realistically and frankly with the actual causes of the tensions we are seeing in inter-Arab relations. These tensions threaten the region's future and the unity and prosperity and the political and security stability of its peoples. Moreover, they adversely affect the League of Arab States' role and ability to deal effectively with the major events now occurring in the region. We must all confront these conditions and devise for them complete solutions that strengthen Arab solidarity.

Arab national security has faced and continues to face major challenges. Some of these challenges have accompanied the development of the regional Arab system and its institution, the League of Arab States, which is about to complete its seventieth year. Other challenges have emerged recently with the winds of change that began to blow through the region three years ago. We must deal with these

challenges based on a comprehensive strategic view, resolve and willpower to successfully surmount them and move ahead.

The primary, greatest challenge is the Palestinian issue. It is the prime, pivotal, central Arab issue. Here, we re-emphasize that the region, and moreover the entire world, will not enjoy peace, security and stability without Israel's for withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, without the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, particularly the right to establish an independent state based on the 4 June 1967 border with its capital in East Jerusalem, and without the upholding of the rights of Palestinian refugees according to relevant United Nations resolutions. I also call for the end of the Palestinian division as agreed three years ago.

We appreciate and call for the continuation of the American administration's recent assiduous efforts. However, these efforts have yet to produce tangible outcomes due to the policy of procrastination and buying time which Israel applies skillfully to continue Judaizing and settling occupied Palestinian territories, including al-Aqsa Mosque and the quarters of Jerusalem's old city.

It is therefore our responsibility to examine traditional alternatives and options – e.g., resorting to the Security Council and international bodies – and nontraditional alternatives and options to which we can resort if Israel continues to attempt to thwart the current efforts. We must knock on all doors.

A key non-traditional option, in my view, is to focus on Israel as an apartheid regime because of its occupation of Palestine. As the last stronghold of colonialism in the 21st century, Israel is moving against the tide of history. Another option would be to focus on promoting the growing international realization that the current situation in the Palestinian territories is untenable and promoting public understanding of the destructive effect of Israeli intransigence on the prospects for successful negotiations. Even the American administration itself, represented by President Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, has publicly acknowledged that Israel's obstruction of efforts to end the conflict will inevitably lead to Israel's isolation in the international community and subjection to a boycott and sanctions. The American administration was of course attacked when it expressed this position, which we welcome. We will wait to see the extent to which this position affects the course of negotiations.

At this stage of the conflict, all Arab states must increase the political, economic and financial support which they provide to the Palestinian people. Above all, they must fulfill their pledges in this regard. They must also support the Palestinian leadership in its efforts to regain the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

The second challenge endangering Arab national security is the Syrian tragedy. We must meet this challenge by seeking to end the crisis through a negotiated political solution that achieves the aspirations of the Syrian people to enjoy freedom and democracy while preserving the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of fraternal Syria.

The Syrian crisis has been the object of international concern and a permanent item on the Security Council agenda for more than two years. Nonetheless, it is primarily an Arab issue. The Arab side is not exempt from its national, political and moral responsibilities for addressing this crisis, which threatens not only the future

of Syria and its people, but also the future of regional Arab security in its entirety, and its serious repercussions threaten the national security and social fabric of the Arab Mashriq countries.

The current dimensions and repercussions of the Syrian crisis are producing disastrous effects for the entire region now and in the future. The crisis has truly become the greatest tragedy of the 21st century. It has resulted in more than 130,000 innocent victims and thousands of injured and lost persons and political prisoners. It has made more than 9 million Syrians homeless, displaced or refugees.

Although everyone at the regional and international level recognizes the enormity and gravity of the Syrian crisis, the crystallization of a negotiated solution to the crisis remains elusive. The Security Council remains unable to issue a cease-fire resolution. The two rounds of negotiations in Geneva between the opposition and the Syrian Government, which ended in mid-February, reached an impasse due to the intransigence of the Syrian Government delegation and its refusal to engage in serious negotiations leading to an agreement on the formation of a governing body with full executive authorities, which is the required solution for the Syrian crisis as provided in the Geneva I statement issued on 30 June 2012. Moreover, despite all the attempts undertaken by UN-Arab League Joint Special Representative for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi, these negotiations did not arrive at a solution.

It is thus essential to devise a new approach to resolve this crisis in order to quickly end the bloodshed, destruction and human suffering and to place this crisis on the path to a negotiated settlement. The Security Council, which is the body concerned with maintaining international peace and security, must earnestly discharge its responsibilities and impose the implementation of its resolutions. The Syrian national coalition must intensify its efforts to unify opposition ranks and complete the formation of its institutions, so that it can express the aspirations and hopes of the Syrian people in its march to build a democratic, free society and in so that it can lead this march.

We cannot speak of the challenges facing Arab regional security without addressing terrorism, which has come to threaten the stability and security of the countries of the region without exception and is undermining the gains that have been achieved. This requires adopting measures to eliminate and uproot terrorism, to dry up its wellsprings and to counter not only those who undertake acts of terrorism but also those that finance and incite terrorism. Moreover, we must not only address the security dimension but also counter the extremist ideological framework that motivates terrorism. The pivotal points in combating terrorism include entrenchment of regional and international cooperation to exchange information and expertise and extradite persons accused and convicted of terrorism offenses. Another pivotal point is the political will of the countries of the region and world to uphold their commitments.

Another key challenge concerns ongoing Arab efforts to establish a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. These efforts have yielded a significant number of international resolutions and commitments to establish such a zone. However, these commitments constantly run up against procrastination and delay in the international arena, especially on the part of Israel, which still refuses to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or any relevant international treaties and retains its huge arsenal of such weapons, which pose a true threat to Arab security. A special annex on this issue has been

appended to my report to the summit with a view toward re-evaluating the situation and formulating an integrated Arab perspective for dealing with this issue in the coming phase.

The Arab countries also face interwoven economic and social challenges, particularly poverty, the low quality of education, sharp imbalances in economic structures, water shortages, desertification and high rates of unemployment, particularly among youth.

Youth constitute the overwhelming majority in the Arab societies and are most prominent in political and social activity. However, youth feel a sense of marginalization. This feeling must be addressed, and youth must be enabled to employ their enormous capacities in building and modernizing their societies and states, lest this enormous resource be wasted.

This also applies to the role of Arab women. We must always keep in mind the role they play in numerous Arab countries – particularly in Tunisia, Egypt, Yemen and other Arab countries – and in democratic political action, which underscores their status as prime movers in our societies and a key factor in achieving progress.

We look forward to the Libyans uniting, overcoming the current difficulties and moving forward in a peaceful process of political transformation. I call on the Arab countries to provide the necessary support to the Libyans to achieve stability, build state institutions and overcome the obstacles facing them. In this regard, I undertook a number of contacts with Libyan officials regarding the participation of the League of Arab States in the process of building institutions, restoring stability, achieving overarching national interests and moving forward with an integrated policy for achieving stability and security.

I would like to also express solidarity with Lebanon, welcome the formation of the new Lebanese Government and affirm the need to provide the necessary support to the Lebanese Government and help it shoulder the humanitarian, political and security burdens of its hosting of growing numbers of displaced Syrians in Lebanon.

I also affirm the need to continue providing support to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Republic of Iraq, Arab Republic of Egypt and other countries hosting Syrian refugees to help them cope with this crisis and the pressures it is placing on them. Here, I am pleased to express gratitude to the State of Kuwait for hosting the proceedings of the First and Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conferences for Syria, and I call for the fulfillment of the promises and commitments made at those conferences.

I would like reaffirm the Arab League's continued support for the position of the United Arab Emirates, which seeks to find a peaceful solution to the issue of the UAE islands occupied by Iran through direct, earnest negotiations or recourse to the International Court of Justice to build trust and strengthen security and stability in the Arab Gulf region.

I also affirm support for the Republic of Sudan's continued progress in building peace and in reconstruction and development. We note with satisfaction the improvement in Sudan's relations with the Republic of South Sudan. We call upon Arab financing and investment institutions to implement the initiative of His Excellency President Omar al-Bashir concerning Arab agricultural investment in Sudan to achieve Arab food security.

I would like to welcome the success achieved in the political process in Somalia and the noticeable improvement in security conditions. I call for providing support to the Somali Government to enable it to continue to achieve political and security progress and to help it build state institutions and rebuild.

Regarding the Comoros Islands, I affirm the Arab League's consummate desire for their unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty. I call for the continued provision of support to the Comoros Islands in cooperation with the Arab Committee for Development and Investment in the Comoros.

I would also like to affirm the need to respect the Republic of Djibouti's sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity and to reject aggression against its territory. I reaffirm the need to implement the agreement signed between the Republic of Djibouti and the State of Eritrea to address the outstanding problems between the two countries.

In the midst of the stormy events in the Arab region, which is filled with major changes and dangers, there are some promising glimmers of hope for the achievement of political stability.

The Republic of Tunisia has approved the new Tunisian constitution, and Tunisian political forces have agreed to form a government. The Arab Republic of Egypt has also completed a new constitution and is moving to implement its roadmap to achieve stability and move forward. I also note the results of the inclusive National Dialogue Conference in Republic of Yemen, which lays the necessary groundwork for the success of the political process and the tasks of the transitional stage.

The new developments in the region are clearly affecting the Arab states' economic and social development, which is essential for Arab peace and security. The summit agenda presented to you today includes extremely important development topics that have been studied in specialized, technical meetings. These topics include follow-up on the implementation of the economic and social resolutions issued by the development summits held in Kuwait (2009), Sharm al-Shaykh (2011) and Riyadh (2013). I would like to point to the coordination now taking place between the Secretariat-General of the Arab League and the Republic of Tunisia to prepare well and effectively for the Fourth Development Summit scheduled for early 2015.

In this regard, I commend the progress achieved in the implementation of the initiative of His Highness Sheikh al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah regarding the special fund to support and finance private-sector small and medium enterprises. I also commend the achievements of the Arab electricity linkage projects and the approval of the Arab strategy for developing renewable energy uses, which has become a top priority on the Arab development action agenda.

The topics presented to the summit today include a new initiative to increase the use of renewable energy resources in the Arab region in cooperation with regional and international bodies. Other topics concern the requirements for completing the executive program for announcing the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, removal of barriers to the establishment of a customs union and the encouragement of investment in agriculture and Arab food security.

The changes seen by the Arab world over the past few years have demonstrated a growing need for concern with culture, thought and knowledge to revive the renaissance spirit, counter obscurantist ideas and ideological terrorism and close the knowledge gap in the Arab world. This requires a climate of freedom of thought and innovation. In order to deal with the challenges of the new reality in the Arab societies, it is necessary to promote culture, education and the arts and to deepen knowledge networking among the Arab societies and between Arab societies and the societies around them.

The challenges which the Arab world has faced in recent years, some of which I have presented, have proven what has been affirmed previously, namely that the current mechanisms and Charter of the League of Arab States are no longer adequate to meet current needs. It is clearly important for the Arab League to act more effectively in maintaining peace and security in the Arab region. Moreover, it is clearly necessary for the Arab League to contribute to the developments occurring in a number of Arab countries by entrenching the concept of good governance as a foundation of Arab national security.

In this regard, to achieve some of these objectives, I hope that the summit will agree to start implementing some of these reforms, particularly the development of the Arab Security and Peace Council to enable it to become more effective and capable of dealing with the crises and conflicts in the region. I also hope for the quick approval of the charter for the Arab Human Rights Court and completion of the charter for the establishment of the Arab Court of Justice stipulated by article 20 of the Charter of the League of Arab States to enable the Arab Court of Justice to hear disputes between the Arab countries that are referred to it. I would also like to point to the proposal to create an Arab humanitarian and social aid coordination mechanism that can act quickly and perform tasks in coordination with the various concerned Arab, regional and international organizations and bodies.

Before concluding my speech, I would like to mention what I stated previously to the Council of the Arab League in September 2011, namely that the Arab League and its institutions must be a part of the change that is occurring around us. We must either make the Arab League a conduit for responsible change or allow it to be carried away by the strong current. We are capable of being a part of the change if Arab decision-makers promote collective Arab organizations and agreements. We can build on tangible achievements just as other regional blocks have done. I would like to point out very clearly and honestly that we must recognize that the political action frameworks which the Arab League currently uses are not succeeding in coordinating Arab policies as desired. Disagreements among the Member States have weakened the Arab League's ability to act effectively. Citizens in all Arab states have grown weary of the talk of the successes of joint Arab action. They do not see these successes actually affecting their daily lives. Arab citizens can no longer be isolated and denied their freedom. They are now able to communicate effectively and freely with their milieu and to champion their rights and the values of freedom, honor and social justice, which have become axioms for them.

By virtue of the responsibility with which you have charged me, I must ask whether there is still a chance of regaining the spirit of initiative, of regaining a unified Arab position, so that the current challenges can be faced earnestly and effectively? I hope that the proceedings of this summit are able to contribute to the crystallization of such an effective Arab position to address the daunting challenges

facing the region and the shortcomings and obstacles in Arab relations. In this way, we can regain the true spirit of Arab solidarity and move toward realizing the summit slogan, "solidarity for the sake of the better future," to achieve the aspirations of the peoples of the Arab states for change, reform, security and stability.

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List of the names of Arab leaders and heads of delegations of the Arab states participating in the summit, 25th ordinary session

Arranged alphabetically in the order of the Arabic alphabet according to the names of the Member States

- His Majesty King Abdullah II Bin al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Mohammed al-Sharqi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Fujairah, United Arab Emirates
- His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister, Kingdom of Bahrain
- His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Moncef Marzouki, President of the Republic of Tunisia
- His Excellency Abdul Qadir Bin Saleh, Speaker of the Parliament, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
- His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti
- His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- His Excellency Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mahmoud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia
- His Excellency Dr. Khudayr Musa Jafar Abbas al-Khuzai, Vice President of the Republic of Iraq
- His Highness Asaad Bin Tareq Al Said, Representative of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos, Sultanate of Oman
- His Excellency Mahmoud Abbas, President of the State of Palestine
- His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar
- His Excellency Ikililou Dhoinine, President of the Federal Republic of the Comoros
- His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait
- His Excellency Michel Suleiman, President of the Republic of Lebanon
- His Excellency Nouri Abusahmain, President of the General National Congress, State of Libya
- His Excellency Adly Mansour, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- His Excellency Abdelilah Benkirane, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Morocco

– His Excellency Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

– His Excellency Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, President of the Republic of Yemen